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Terrorist Activity

Russia: Exchange of Chechen Militants for Russians May Be Soon

LD1202203096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1922 GMT 12 Feb 96

[By Igor Zhukov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 12 (ITAR-TASS) — "The State Duma's resolution on the amnesty of the Chechen terrorists, seized during the operation in the town of Kizlyar and the Pervomayskoye village, has opened the possibility of their exchange for the 12 militiamen from the city of Novosibirsk who have been in the captivity for a long time, and it is not ruled out that this exchange will be made already this week," Russian State Duma deputy Yuliy Rybakov told ITAR-TASS on Monday.

Rybakov, who is deputy chairman of the parliamentary commission for the assistance in the liberation of forcibly held servicemen, civilians, and the search for persons reported missing during the armed conflict in the Chechen Republic and neighbouring regions, said that the exchange might be carried out in the next few days.

"It should be made in accordance with the principle 'all for all' and this approach may open good prospects for releasing the remaining hostages and prisoners-of-war still being held by Chechen militants," Rybakov said.

Russia: Chechen Government Determined To Free Russian Hostages

LD1202181196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1642 GMT 12 Feb 96

[By Oleg Artyushin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, February 12 (ITAR-TASS) — Chechen first vice-premier Sanaki Arbiyev on Monday confirmed that the local government was determined to free 65 Russian construction and energy workers kept hostages by Dudayev's troops.

The government would even agree to pay a ransom for them and release the equal number of militants from filtration camps, Arbiyev told ITAR-TASS. "But we will never agree to meet their political demands," he said.

The situation around the hostages has worsened after Aslan Maskhadov, the commander of rebel forces, declined to discuss their fate with anybody except a person representing the federal command.

Another negative factor, in Arbiyev's words, was that some politicians and members of public organisations were trying to free the hostages by their own means, not interacting with the Chechen government. "The hostages become an object of bargaining, and the militants are raising the price," Arbiyev said.

He noted that the latest contact with mediators in the talks on the hostages took place in early February. The vice-premier expressed hope that the negotiations will continue after Groznyy is mollified after a week of anti-government rallies.

Russia: IZVESTIYA Examines Latest Developments in Chechnya

MM1302105596 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Kakotkin: "Chechen Deadlock: Neither Peace, Nor War. IZVESTIYA Special Correspondent Aleksandr Kakotkin Reports From Groznyy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two weeks ago the press was virtually unanimous in defining the situation in Chechnya with the phrase "neither peace, nor war." There will now probably be both in the republic.

The sensational pro-Dudayev rally in Groznyy on the square outside the presidential palace was a typical sign of the new phase. Toward the end of the week both sides' behavior became nervy. The square was cordoned off by troops and armored vehicles and overt threats were heard from the Dudayev camp. Early Saturday morning [10 February] the situation became critical. Helicopters continually circled the city and the police and troops pursued demonstrators who made their way into the rally from outside. There was firing leading to casualties, the precise number of whom is still not known. The figure of seven dead and 16 wounded is considered the most realistic. Everyone prepared for a bloody denouement. But toward evening, to everyone's surprise, the authorities and the rally's organizers found common ground. The former brought buses to the square. Despite the casualties most people in Groznyy consider this outcome a political victory for Doku Zavgayev.

There seem to have been intelligent tactics behind the Chechen Government's actions. Thus, for instance, the head of the republic is now acting solely as the father of the nation and peacemaker. At the same time Vice Premier Bugayev, who is effectively his deputy, is increasingly reminding those in "favor of destabilizing the situation" that the government's patience is not infinite and that it may soon use its authority. And it cannot be said that what both of them are saying is at variance with their actions.

Thus, on Sunday [11 February] Shatoyskiy Rayon in the south saw a widely publicized historic local reconciliation. Detachments of guerrillas agreed to surrender their armored vehicles and some of their weapons, release their prisoners, and transfer the area entirely to the jurisdiction of official Groznyy. In response the airborne unit stationed here will be withdrawn from the area. One should admittedly recall that this reconciliation only occurred after two months of fierce fighting.

At the same time, only without particular hullabaloo, in eastern Chechnya the federal troops were blockading the main stronghold of the Dudayev resistance — the village of Novogroznenskiy, which is the home of Aslan Maskhadov's headquarters. During talks with local representatives another general, Anatoliy Kvashnin, commander of the North Caucasus Military District, promised to raze Novogroznenskiy to the ground in 30 minutes in the event of a refusal to disarm. The village is being shelled from Dagestan, and guerrillas and local inhabitants are digging trenches for defense. Incidentally, General Kvashnin wittily remarked that this is very convenient: There will be no need later to waste time digging graves....

If all this is no chance coincidence, the federal authorities will in their actions toward Chechnya move on to the classic carrot and stick tactics with the help of Zavgayev's government. Both these have already been used here separately with no particular success.

Military Activity

Russia: Federal Forces Said Ready To 'Storm' Novogroznenskiy

LD1202203796 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1900 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An alarming report is coming in concerning the situation in the village of Novogroznenskiy, where the headquarters of Dzhokhar Dudayev's supporters is located. According to the affirmation of Kachikhin, member of the parliamentary commission for the return of the POWs, federal forces have blockaded the village and are preparing to storm it. The deputy thinks the latter event is directed exclusively at wrecking all peace agreements.

[passage omitted, including indistinct portions: Yuliy Shchekochikhin, on phone, says in a very poorly received excerpt that General Vorobyev has flown out to Groznyy. Konstantin Borovoy has gone to the area controlled by Dudayev and says one should ask why this big operation to blockade Novogroznenskiy has been started.]

Russia: Military Situation in Chechnya Seen as 'Complex'

LD1302064796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0544 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW February 13 (ITAR-TASS) — Over the past 24 hours, Interior-Ministry servicemen 18 times returned the fire in retaliation. Three Interior-Ministry servicemen have been killed and ten wounded. A Russian army serviceman has been also wounded, a spokesman at the Press Bureau of Russian Interior-Ministry troops has told ITAR-TASS.

The situation in the Chechen Republic remains complex. Armed gangs have been active in the area of Bamut, Verkhotoi, Bervil-aul and Koshkeldy, the spokesman said.

It is noteworthy that three days ago the administration chiefs, elders and members of the general public in Koshkeldy and Bervil-aul, obeying the will of the local population, edged militants out of their villages and handed in arms to an Interior-Ministry unit and to Chechen police. Bandits, contrary to the wish of people to live in peace and ignoring the fact that their actions may result in adversity for innocent people, provoke Federal troops into returning the fire, the spokesman pointed out.

Russia: Troops Begin Withdrawing From Shatoy Per Agreement

MM1302125296 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Yanchenkov: "Reconnaissance Battalion Leaves Shatoy. The Troop Withdrawal From Chechnya Has Begun"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy-Shatoy — As a result of accords reached, the participants in the rally which has lasted many days in Groznyy's central square have agreed to end their protest action against the federal troops' presence in Chechnya.

Today public attention is riveted on another Chechen city — Shatoy, which is regarded as one of the epicenters of armed opposition. Representatives of all nine of the rayon's population centers gathered here 11 February. A well-attended good-will rally was held in the city center. To the approval of all who were gathered there, administration heads and elders advocated ending the armed conflict and establishing lasting peace on the territory of Shatoyskiy Rayon.

Protocols on the mutual cessation of all combat operations and unlawful actions were signed by representatives of the population centers on the one hand, by the leadership of the Chechen Republic in the person of Vice Premier A. Bogayev on another, and by General V. Tikhomirov, commander of the united federal troop grouping, on yet another. The sides adopted a pledge not to hamper the everyday activities of the population centers' administrations or residents and not to perpetrate unlawful actions against the civilian population.

The administration heads and elders pledged in turn not to create armed formations from among residents and not to undertake unlawful actions against federal troops or organs of power of the Chechen Republic.

Addressing the gathering, Gen. Tikhomirov, the initiator of the act of good will, said, in particular:

"We have offered the people and residents of Shatoyskiy Rayon peace and found common points of contact. The population has already started surrendering weapons, and agreement has been reached on an exchange of prisoners of war and illegally held persons. These are just the first steps, which are intended to show all the Chechen Republic's inhabitants the way out of the impasse. I wish to appeal to the State Duma and the Russian Federation Government: No commissions and no other actions are needed, for the people themselves are making their own choice and must not be hindered."

Peaceful speeches were still being made in the square, but a column of military hardware was already rumbling through the city streets: A reconnaissance battalion consisting of approximately 500 men and officers was leaving its place of temporary stationing and heading for Khankala in order then to leave the territory of the Chechen Republic.

Russia: Chechens in Shatoy Concerned Over Restoration Funding

LD1202194796 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In Shatoy District rebels have handed over three armored vehicles, one Pekhota military truck, and dozens of automatic rifles to the authorities. This was made possible thanks to the signed protocol on peace and accord between Dudayev's rebels and the administration of Shatoy District.

[Unidentified correspondent] Leaders of nine villages in Shatoy District and representatives of the federal forces had been in talks for six weeks before they finally took trust in each other and signed a protocol on peace and accord. The federal forces have guaranteed a gradual pull-out of the paratrooper regiment from Shatoy while the village representatives have guaranteed the laying down of arms, the absence of the Dudayev forces from the territory of the district and freedom for activities of the legal bodies of power.

[Begin A. Bugayev, deputy prime minister of Chechnya, recording] Where there is no stability, it is impossible to tackle economic issues. I have in mind the restoration of the economy and the social sphere. I will cite for you the example of Shatoy District. About two months ago we sent here 140 million rubles for the district to be able to pay out pensions to people. So, what happened? The funds did not reach pensioners or those who needed them. These pensions have disappeared without a trace. At present the law-enforcement bodies are studying this problem. [end recording]

[Correspondent] The protocol on peace and accord was signed not only by the military, representatives of the republican and local power but also by the elders of nine villages in Shatoy District. The local mullah has blessed the good deed. It is seen as a guarantee of success. Therefore, on Monday the head of the Chechen republic instructed all his ministers to work out a mechanism for the payment of pensions, various compensations and benefits to residents of Shatoy District.

Russia: Russian Generals Blamed for Chechen Raduyev's Escape

MM1202142196 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Feb 96 p 4

[Article by Valeriy Yakov: "Who Benefits From the Story of a 'Corridor' for Raduyev?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two days ago IZVESTIYA published some preliminary results of the work of the investigation team looking into the events in Kizlyar and Pervomayskoye. Several possible explanations of what happened were cited on the basis of the words of a senior staffer of the General Prosecutor's Office who wished to remain anonymous, including the supposition of a "corridor" for Raduyev along which he escaped to Chechnya. Today we give a platform to an officer who was in that "corridor" together with his soldiers and tried to stop the breakout. He makes no secret of his name — Airborne Troops Colonel Viktor Pinchuk.

"Two companies of the 7th Airborne Division totaling 88 men took up positions on the outskirts of Pervomayskoye 10 January. Our original mission was to fire on the gunmen's convoy as soon as it crossed the Chechen border. But for some reason they opened fire on the convoy even before our appearance, and it turned back to the village. We had to take up a position near the bridge across the small Aksay River and await further instructions. One company dug itself in in a field between Pervomayskoye and Sovetskoye, and the other split up and prepared to defend the bridge and to repulse a possible attack on our rear from the direction of Chechnya. Nobody thought we would have to spend 10 days in those conditions. We had flown out expecting to stay one day.

"Two groups of the 22d GRU [Main Intelligence Directorate] Spetsnaz Brigade took up a position on the left flank 12 January. They were covering the approach to the inverted siphon — the gas pipe across the Terek. Then 15 January, fearing that the gunmen might try to break out in that direction, we transferred to the Spetsnaz 23 men from the 7th Airborne Division. Eventually we also managed to ensure that our rear in the direction of Azamatyurt was covered by two companies of the 56th Separate Airborne Brigade — in case Basayev's detachment put in an appearance.

"The night before the breakout, at 2300 hours 17 January, aircraft suddenly stopped dropping illumination flares. Taking advantage of the total darkness and the fact that after eight days our people had dropped their guard and were not as vigilant, the gunmen sneaked out of the village along the canal toward the dam and at 0300 hours struck against the Spetsnaz positions and at the boundary with the 3d Company of the 7th Airborne. At that moment eight Spetsnaz were on duty at the dam; the rest were asleep. The gunmen were moving in 'pig' formation — a powerful fire group in front, hostages, wounded, and the group's leaders in the middle, a covering group at the rear. The Spetsnaz suffered losses but tried to repulse the attack. Our 3d Company fired on the gunmen's right flank. During the fight we managed to kill around 60 of the attackers (in the morning I personally walked through the sector and counted up the bodies). But the main force nevertheless broke out and escaped. In the morning an attempt was made to get them by means of artillery and helicopters, but it was too late.

"In this situation our soldiers did everything they could in endeavoring with a line of about 30 men to stop the gang. But who could have thought that after an assault lasting three days the gang would have lost practically no one and would commit between 150 and 200 men to the breakout. Especially as the evening before the breakout our soldiers already knew from the official announcement that there was virtually no one left alive in Pervomayskoye...."

Col. Pinchuk's account is laconic and dispassionate, and contains none of the juicy expressions of which he made abundant use on the front line when supporting his soldiers and cursing the coordinators of the feeble Pervomayskoye operation. He and Lieutenant Colonel Boris Petrov, despite the extremely strict ban imposed by the FSB [Federal Security Service] on admitting the press to the scene of the events, allowed me and two of my colleagues to remain in the trenches among the airborne troops throughout the assault. We saw what efforts these combat officers made to reinforce their sector, which was the one where there was greatest danger of a breakout. We saw how they shouted themselves hoarse on the radio demanding ammunition, reinforcements, and even food. How they tried to cheer and rouse young soldiers who had lapsed into drowsy apathy because of a week of short rations, lack of sleep, and cold. As early as the second day of the assault the officers realized that if the gunmen launched an attack toward the Terek they would probably be able to break out, because it would be impossible to stop them with a line of 30 men. Quite why the staff, which had surrounded itself with a ring of armor, failed to realize this is unclear.

At their notorious press conference General M. Barsukov and A. Kulikov said that they had around 2,500 men under their command around Pervomayskoye. As we know, they were armed with 54 infantry fighting vehicles, 22 armored personnel carriers, four armored reconnaissance vehicles, a tank, 12 artillery pieces, three "Grad" units, dozens of helicopters, and much else besides. Almost this entire armada was concentrated on the Dagestan side, as though it might have occurred to Raduyev to break out back into Dagestan when he was just a few hundred meters from Chechnya. But it was on the Chechen side, the most dangerous side, that the leaders of the operation contrived to leave only a little over 100 soldiers. Without armor, without artillery, without cover, and simply without food. They were essentially left exposed. Just as earlier the Special Rapid Reaction Detachment, "Alfa," and the members of the Novosibirsk Special Purpose Police Detachment had been left exposed to Raduyev's machine guns and artillery fire from their own side....

The airborne troops and Spetsnaz are being betrayed a second time now, with the launch of the story of the "corridor" which the federal troops supposedly provided for Raduyev. It is clear to any knowledgeable person that in the present case what is meant by "federal troops" is the Army, not special subunits of the special services. At that same press conference Gen. Barsukov was modest in his assessment of his own operations, describing the operation as a success. But the shame of Raduyev's escape had to be "pinned" on someone. Naturally, the most suitable candidates for this were the few dozen soldiers and officers from a different army department who "allowed the breakout to occur." The victorious military leaders prefer not to recall that many soldiers in this line were killed and dozens were wounded and contused. The seriously wounded include Sergeant Andrey Simakin and Lieutenant Colonel Boris Petrov, who became comrades of ours over this period.

The investigation group has had sufficient courage to admit the cases of repeated lies heard from the operation's leaders. Admittedly, the press, including our newspaper, had already repeatedly written of these cases without receiving a single denial in response. But will the investigation have the courage not to confine itself to parroting FSB theories and seeking "fall guys" but to call to account the true authors of the successful failure in Pervomayskoye — Army Generals Barsukov and Kulikov?

Russia: Cost of Chechen War Tallied

964F1046A Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 4, 28 Jan-4 Feb 96 p 19

[Article by economist A. Illarionov: "The Chechen Balance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] More than a year has elapsed since the start of the operation of the Russian power departments to pacify Chechnya. Let us sum up its interim result.

In this time, Vladimir Rubanov, deputy secretary of the Security Council of Russia, estimates, from 20,000 to 30,000 peaceful citizens have died in Chechnya. Independent experts cite a figure of 50,000. Some 2,034 servicemen were killed and over 7,000 wounded from 11 December 1994 through 30 November 1995 alone, according to the Russian authorities' official figures. On the Chechen side, it is variously estimated, from 3,000 to 7,000 persons have died. From 100,000 to 250,000 persons are without shelter, and from 400,000 to 600,000 persons have become refugees. The city of Groznyy with its half-million population has been destroyed: 50-60 percent of all buildings and installations have been demolished. Other cities of Chechnya and many villages have been subjected to considerable devastation also. Approximately 4 million square meters of housing have been destroyed.

Now, costs. According to Russian Government figures, the expenditure of the power departments (the Ministry of Defense, MVD, Ministry for Emergencies, the Federal Security Service, the Federal Communication and Information Agency, and the Federal Border Service) on operations in Chechnya constituted R1.848 trillion in just four months (December 1994 through March 1995). Consequently, by the present time their total official expenditure has reached R8 trillion. According to estimates obtained on the basis of indirect data, however, actual total outlays on the conduct of combat operations was not less than R25 trillion.

Expenditure on "restoration of the national economy of the social sphere of Chechnya" in 1995 constituted, according to official figures, R7.5 trillion. A further R16.2 trillion and approximately $1 billion or R21 trillion altogether are to be spent on this, according to a presidential edict, in 1996.

The cost of the contracts concluded merely with three firms—Gamma, Enka, and Makbo-Mabeteks—for restoration work in the center of Groznyy amounts to $753 million. When the number of workers killed reached 27, and wounded, 90, these firms wound up the restoration work.

As a result of the Chechen war Russia's membership of the Council of Europe was postponed for a year, which, Deputy Premier Oleg Davydov estimates, cost the country $1.5 billion.

Many experts are tying directly to use of its monies to fund operations in Chechnya the surprise summer crisis of the Retirement Fund, when its huge, steady revenue receipts were suddenly insufficient for the traditional pension disbursements.

Consequences. The last attempt at financial stabilization, which had the greatest chance of success, has failed because of the Chechen war. As a result the victory of the communist and nationalist forces at the December elections was inevitable, and the Russian Government of the 1995 model lost its last chance to remain in office. The failure of last year's financial stabilization has even today opened the doors to populist economic policy.

A fearsome epidemic—terrorism—has appeared and already taken root in the country. It is known from the experience of other countries that terrorism even in successful countries does not lend itself to a swift cure. A cult of violence and nationalism and a disregard for basic human rights, primarily the right to life, is strengthening in society. Ethnically based purges have become perfectly habitual, evoking practically no public protest. The unprecedentedly brutal suppression of the Muslims in the North Caucasus has ignited Islamic tendencies in Russia and outside.

And, finally, the assets. However odd, there are such. The mythological shroud of recent years has fallen away, and light has been shed on the moral positions of all public forces and politicians. It is has become clear who's who and what may be expected of whom. In addition, the colossal distance between two people has been demonstrated. One who in August 1991 asked the forgiveness of three young people for the fact that, as president of the country, he had been unable to save them from death. And the other exasperated by the peaceful liberation of the hostages in Budennovsk and singing the praises of the 38 snipers.

It would seem that it will soon become clear what all this was and is—an absurd, tragic, and monstrous accident or a carefully prepared and cold-bloodedly executed working plan.

Political Reaction

Russia: Gorbachev Offers To Mediate in Chechen Conflict

LD1202141896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 12 (INTERFAX) — Ex-Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev told a news conference in Moscow today he is ready to become a mediator in the Chechen settlement.

Gorbachev said he is ready to immediately start negotiations between the warring sides and prepare a meeting betweem Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Chechen rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev with the participation of Chechen head Doku Zavgayev.

Commenting on conditions for his mediation, Gorbachev named an official appeal by Boris Yeltsin and a personal meeting with the Russian President, as well as the consent of Dudayev and Zavgayev.

The formula of political settlement should include an agreement on the immediate termination of hostilities, denouncement of terrorism and any use of force, and clarified stands on the status of the Chechen Republic, which should take into account the interests of the Chechen people and the whole Russia, said Gorbachev.

In his opinion, the attempts of Russian leadership to settle the Chechen problem by force have failed, same as the plans of Dudayev to launch a jihad and separate from Russia. The attempt at conflict settlement by the election of new Chechen leaders, including Doku Zavgayev, has failed as well, said Gorbachev.

He described as nonsense the statement by Russian leaders on their seven variants of Chechen settlement. "Everything we were offered is mere words," stressed Gorbachev.

He thinks "the Chechen conflict is entering a phase which threatens to destabilize the whole of Russia."

Russia: Yeltsin 'Options' Pale When Compared to Dudayev Plans

MM1202143696 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Feb 96 p 1

[Article by Nikolay Kozhanov: "President's 'Seven Options'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] So, it turns out, what a wide range of constructive decisions on Chechnya the Russian president has up his sleeve, which he has announced for all the astounded world to hear. Astounded because people cannot fathom out why he kept these options in reserve for such an awfully long time. He should have, for instance, put them into effect in January last year, instead of wiping blocks of the Chechen capital from the face of the Earth and littering its streets with the bodies of Russian soldiers and Chechens.

But on the other hand due credit must be given to Boris Nikolayevich, who has the ability to learn from his own mistakes. He now knows from experience that quantity is not always proportional to quality. Thus, the 38 snipers in Pervomayskoye hyped by the president kept on watching Raduyev and his gang but lost them somewhere. What an embarrassment! Now, when people see thousands-strong pro-Dudayev rallies outside the ruined presidential palace in Groznyy and when they hear about the gunmen's virtually daily unpunished taking of hostages — from the ordinary worker to Zavgayev's ministers and Orthodox Church priests — they get the impression that there are even more Dudayev supporters in the Chechen capital than before the war began, when they were the complete masters here....

Thus, the "seven options." In general, this is also rather a lot. After all, at one time there were the two or three hours in which our best-ever defense minister guaranteed to solve the Chechen problem. There were also the three weeks scheduled by Yegorov for pacification. A considerable time later, when, having edged out the generals, peacemaker Arkadiy Volskiy got down to business, there were the three months he promised to achieve complete silence....

Realizing this, our president developed his idea further, explaining that all the "seven options" ultimately boil down to...two. If he withdraws his troops from Chechnya, mass carnage will begin there. If he does not he will lose his presidential post. That means, according to logic, that in the event of mass carnage we will have the pleasure of seeing Boris Nikolayevich as president for another four years. If the troops are left in Chechnya we will have to say good-bye to him. Think about it, voter, it is not a wide choice.

But while the president's think-tank casts spells over this cabalistic seven, Dzhokhar Dudayev, without waiting for the result, put what we can call his own eighth option into effect. Namely a policy to capture Groznyy with the help of hundreds of women and children assembled in the central square and obliviously performing the "ziko" war dance. And a policy of new frightening raids, now not only in Russia but also in Europe and further afield, evidently with the prospect of creating Dudayev's world empire....

Compared with such plans Yeltsin's "seven" will simply pale into insignificance.

Russia: 'Chechnya Options' Scenario Leaves Questions Unanswered

MM1202135396 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 Feb 96 pp 1,2

[Article by Aleksandr Gamov: "President Names Chernomyrdin as 39th 'Marksman'?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Thursday Boris Yeltsin announced some staggering news: Apparently, in the second year of the Chechen bloodshed "we" (obviously, in the Kremlin) have come up with "seven options for ending the war...." Before this — remember its infamous history — you had the "300 gunmen making up Dudayev's army"; "two airborne assault regiments" and "one hour" for the burial of the "rotten regime"; the "10-day ultimatums" after which the "warriors of Allah" were supposed to meekly lay down their arms; and, finally, the "38 marksmen," who were instructed to save the Pervomayskoye hostages.

Although at the time it was still smoke. On this occasion the president made no mention of this for some reason. But there is still a great deal of smoke.

In the first place, it is not clear whether the "seven options" are finely wrought decisions or merely castles in the air. On the same day when the president was announcing them his press secretary Sergey Medvedev let drop an even more mysterious phrase at a Kremlin briefing: "The elaboration of the concept continues, because there are no ready-made solutions."

Second, it is not clear who is involved in the "elaboration." The day before the president's Thursday statements Security Council Secretary Oleg Lobov announced: Boris Yeltsin will announce his decision on Chechnya on 15 February, which implied that it was being prepared in the bowels of the Security Council. Then it turns out that Lobov's department did not have the final say — the vacationing premier had been instructed to do that, and on the 15th Boris Nikolayevich would be announcing quite a different decision.

Third, we do not know what kind of group, headed by Viktor Chernomyrdin, has been set up at the Security Council — the president hopes it will "put the options in groups or choose one to suit all." If Boris Nikolayevich was thinking about the premier's closest aides, who flew to Sochi again on Thursday with their boss, then, according to our information, they included mainly specialists in "grouping together" and "choosing" options for economic decisions, and not a very delicate political problem to do with unraveling the complicated Chechen knot.

The "group" has been given two weeks to seek a compromise, after which, according to Boris Yeltsin, "we will meet again and decide what we are going to do."

"To remove the forces from Chechnya or not to remove them...." This dilemma, currently facing the soon to be presidential candidate Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, requires not a "group approach," but a brainstorming effort. Otherwise the "marksmen," even if there are 39 of them, and the "smokescreen," however thick, will not save the main hostage of this war — pre-election Russia.

Russia: Chechen Premier Acted as Guarantor of Peace Agreements

LD1202203296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1827 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Feb 12 (INTERFAX) — Moscow-backed Chechen Prime Minister Doku Zavgayev said that he acted as a guarantor for the implementation of peace and accord agreements between federal troops, the government and the local administration, the federal troops command's press service told INTERFAX. Zavgayev was speaking at a meeting with the administration of Chechnya's Novogroznensky village Monday.

Zavgayev said the Chechen government guaranteed amnesty on the Russian president's behalf for those supporters of Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev who had not shed blood, according to the same source.

Regarding the recent rally in the Chechen capital Groznyy, Zavgayev said the rally had been organized by Dudayev's supporters to "break down the people's morale, because such rallies are unnatural for Chechens."

With regard to the hostage drama in Dagestan's Pervomayskoye village, Zavgayev said that militants detained in Pervomayskoye included residents of Afghanistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Russia, Latvia and Ethiopia. "All of them were moving under the banner of Dudayev's militants," he said.

"Dollars are flowing to us in Chechnya but this money does not buy a home or shoes for a kid. These dollars go toward purchases of arms by Dudayev," Zavgayev said.

"This regime will not sit on the people's necks again," Zavgayev said.

Russia: Zavgayev Interviewed on Situation in Chechnya

LD1202205096 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Feb 96

[Interview with head of Chechen government Doku Zavgayev by Roman Privizenskiy; place and date not given; recorded; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zavgayev] It is exceptionally important that the current situation in society is overcome, when people are embittered and aggrieved, people are without work. The republic is currently flooded with weapons and troops, and dubious characters are gathering here. The events in Pervomayskoye, where citizens of other states were found among the dead and the detained, show this. There is a whole set of complex problems. This is why we are very pleased and reassured by the process that began yesterday in Shatoy district, with weapons surrendered and people returning to civilian life. We have now embarked on this path and are very pleased.

We have managed to deal with the rally by peaceful methods. The rally dispersed, and there were even mutual apologies for the inconvenience caused. Now, as you know, an agreement was signed in Shatoy district yesterday. Four armored vehicles were given up there and a large number of automatic weapons, grenade launchers, machine guns, and so on. Anatoliy Kvashnin [commander of the North Caucasus Military District] and I spent some time in the village of Novogroznenskiy yesterday. Our three hour meeting and quite difficult talks eventually led to an agreement — similar to the one in Shatoy — being signed there today as well. The process of handing over weapons has begun there as well.

I can say now without any exaggeration that I have here a whole package of appeals from villages and a number of regions asking for meetings with them as soon as possible, to sign agreements and start setting up reception points for weapons. So I think this movement is irreversible now, and I am sure that the republic will recover in the near future. Weapons will be handed over, we do not need them at all, and the step-by-step withdrawal of troops from the places where they are permanently stationed will begin as the situation in the republic stabilizes. Yesterday you saw how one battalion left Shatoy district. The process has started, as they say.

[Privizenskiy] What do people in the republic now need most?

[Zavgayev] Well, first of all, people need to be compensated for the material losses that each family has suffered. That is damaged housing, ruined property, and so on. That needs to be done first. Second among our priorities, either of secondary or perhaps primary importance, is to create jobs so that every person can get a job. Then we have to restore educational establishments, schools, technical colleges, and higher education establishments so that young people can continue their education, which was interrupted four years ago. These are the priorities.

Russia: Federal Troops, Chechen Government Sign Peace Protocol

LD1202162096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1456 GMT 12 Feb 96

[By Oleg Artyushin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, February 12 (ITAR-TASS) — A protocol on peace and accord was signed on Monday [12 February] by the command of the federal troops, the government of the Chechen republic and the leaders of the settlement of Novogroznenskiy and the Gudermes district, where it is located.

The document is based on the experience of the Shatoy town from which one parachute battalion of the 104th Airborne Division was pulled out on Sunday, Ruslan Martagov, the press secretary of the Chechen government, told ITAR-TASS.

Head of the republic Doku Zavgayev, who visited the settlement on Sunday, will act as a guarantor of the implementation of the agreements reached in Novogroznenskiy.

According to the protocol, the activities of the federal troops and the local irregular militiamen shall be reduced.

The local authorities undertook not to allow Dudayev's militants on their territory, Martagov said.

Citizens began to disarm and handed over to the federal troops 24 units of small arms, he noted.

Martagov said that a number of other populated localities in the Chechen republic will follow the example shown by citizens of Shatoy and Novogroznenskiy

Russia: Yeltsin Directive on Chechen Settlement Commission

MM1302110196 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Feb 96 p 1

[Russian Federation president's directive No. 57, signed by President B. Yeltsin and dated 10 February 1996, under the general heading "Russian Federation President's Directives"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A large number of appeals have been addressed to the Russian Federation president from a number of leaders of executive organs and legislative organs in various Russian Federation components, and from political parties, public organizations, and individual citizens proposing possible ways of achieving a peaceful settlement to the crisis in the Chechen Republic.

1. A commission headed by the chairman of the Russian Federation Government shall be set up with a view to summing up and analyzing the communications received, and to elaborating the most effective ways to settle the situation in the Chechen Republic.

2. V.S. Chernomyrdin shall form the commission within two days.
3. The commission shall submit proposals within two weeks.
4. This directive comes into force the day it is signed.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

[Dated] 10 February 1996
No. 57

Russia: Twenty Chechen Villages State Desire For Peace

LD1302131496 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Inhabitants of 20 settlements in the Chechen republic have said they are ready to join in the process of disarmament and to put a halt to the confrontation with the federal troops, an expanded session of the Chechen government heard in Groznyy today.

The republican government has already signed peace and accord agreements with the administrative bodies of the settlements of Shatoy, Gudermes, Novogroznenskiy and Shali. Other signatories included the field commanders and the federal troops.

Doku Zavgayev, the head of the republic, thinks these steps will help put a halt to combat operations on Chechnya's territory.

The Chechen republic's government today adopted a decision on the elimination of indebtedness to the population and on the payment of pensions and benefits.

Questions connected with the work of the republic's law and order bodies have also been examined during the session.

Russia: Conference Calls for Consensus in Chechen Settlement

MM1302110596 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by Andrey Shcherbakov: "War Over By Spring?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Russia and Chechnya: Which Road to Peace?" was the title of an interregional conference held in Moscow by the Peace and Harmony Federation and a "roundtable" of parties and movements from the Chechen Republic.

Despite the differences in views and the heated debates, the conference participants agreed that there is no and can be no military option for solving the conflict on Chechen territory. Consequently, it is necessary to return to the unswerving observance of all the terms of the 30 July 1995 military agreement as a priority measure, and to continue the negotiating process that has begun with the participation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe mission.

...It will be impossible to achieve consensus without the ability to listen to and understand each other. And where there is no consensus there can be no peace.

Russia: 'Right Bank' Leader Cited on Nemtsov Chechnya Campaign

MM1202145096 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Feb 96 p 1

[Letter from Aleksey Orekhov, executive secretary of the "Right Bank" Public Movement: "Politicians' Underhand Games: Governor Nemtsov's Chechen Card"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nizhniy Novgorod — On 29 January Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast Governor Boris Nemtsov handed Boris Yeltsin a letter containing signatures collected at Nizhniy Novgorod's industrial enterprises, transport and communications subunits, and budget-funded organizations and establishments asking the Russian president to bring the war in Chechnya to an end.

This war is certainly a tragic page in the country's history, which has swamped all the tenets of human morality in blood. And there is no justification for it. On the scorched earth of the North Caucasus young, healthy, talented guys have been being criminally murdered and maimed for over a year now when they could have been building homes and machinery, plowing the land, growing grain, and raising children.

But, while leveling complaints at the ruling elite, we will be restrained and prudently circumspect in our comments, remembering that the president's will was imposed on the country and the Army only after it had won the approval of Russia's politicians, including the Federation Council, of which our governor is, incidentally, a member. Why in December 1994 was he — a man organically linked to Russia's supreme authorities — submissive and tacitly agreeable to the president's decision? Why for a year has he never officially stated that the war unleashed in Chechnya is hopeless and our soldiers are human targets for Dudayev's bandits? What prevented him from resolutely condemning the senseless bloodshed?

Boris Nemtsov now has neither the audacity nor the civic courage to personally tell the president of the ruinous nature of the military operations in Chechnya and to demand the immediate withdrawal of the troops. He prefers to lead events with 1 million Nizhniy Novgorod people behind him. For greater reliability and invulnerability. It is not himself but these people that he is primarily pitting against the president. He says, let the president hear straight from the indignant people the loud voice of protest. The people constitute a force and their voice will ring out throughout Russia, glorifying the governor who leads the convoys with the peacemaker's white flag.

It is easy to see why Nemtsov has now decided to "initiate the civil movement against the war in Chechnya" and why he is presenting his appeal to the president as an event on a world scale. The time for euphoria, self-satisfaction, and the height of his ephemeral fame is passing. All the reforms which he started and which were hyped up by the press are disintegrating like soap bubbles, bringing the people nothing but losses and disappointment. Nemtsov understands better than anyone else that as governor he will become a mediocrity without fresh "initiatives" to give him a wealth of political capital.

Six or seven years ago the adroit and fairly far-sighted politician B. Nemtsov shouted "Down with the CPSU!" louder than anyone. But he always sensed when there had been a change in the political situation in the country. It was probably motives of expediency that accounted for his seeming audacity in appealing to the president: "Make every effort, take every step".... And his unequivocal statement at a meeting with local journalists: "If the president really wants to take part in the presidential elections and get more than zero votes, he simply must heed this demand and take the appropriate decision as supreme commander in chief."

As we can see, our governor is virtually making Boris Yeltsin's future entirely dependent on the president meeting his "demand."

Be that as it may, Nemtsov needed the "Chechen card," drenched in human tears and stained with soldiers' blood, for purely populist purposes and he has long since learned to use the silent people for his own personal ends.

[Signed] Aleksey Orekhov, executive secretary of the "Right Bank" Public Movement

CIS: Russia, PRC, Central Asia To Sign Border Agreement

LD1002112896 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in English 0800 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] China, Russia, and three commonwealth Central Asian republics are to sign a treaty on demilitarized border areas. Kazakhstan's foreign minister, Qasymzhomart Toqayev, said on Friday that the Chinese, Russian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, and Tajik leaders will sign a treaty in the last 10 days of April on preventing border conflicts and creating a 100 km zone that will be closed to holding military exercises.

CIS: Baltic States Not Planning 'Military Union'

LD1002063496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0209 GMT 10 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RIGA, Feb 9 (INTERFAX) — Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia do not plan to sign a treaty on a military union, Defense Ministers Andrejs Krastins of Latvia, Linas Linkevicius of Lithuania and Andrus Edvel of Estonia told a news conference in Adazi, near the Latvian capital Riga, Friday.

According to them, "all the three Baltic countries seek admission to NATO as soon as possible and see no point in creating a narrower military union."

INTERFAX has already reported that former commander of Estonian Defense Forces Aleksander Einseln spoke late last year about a military union of the Baltic countries. The idea was discussed by commanders of Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian Defense Forces in Riga last November but no concrete decisions were made.

CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 13 Feb

LD1302074696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0737 GMT 13 Feb 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW February 13 (ITAR-TASS) — Follows a review of Tuesday's Moscow-based Russian newspapers dated February 13.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on the start of a withdrawal of troops from Chechnya. Troops have begun to withdraw from Chechnya, the newspaper writes. "The attention of the public is riveted on the Chechen town of Shatoi. A goodwill meeting took place downtown. Adminsitration chiefs and elders, acclaimed by those present, called for an end to the armed conflict and the establishment of lasting peace in Shatoi District. Meanwhile, a 500-strong reconnaissance battalion was leaving its temporary station, heading for Khankala so as to leave the territory of the Chechen Republic subsequently."

IZVESTIYA offers its own view of the event.

In an article headlined "The Chechen syndrome: neither peace nor war", the newspaper points out that "a widely-publicised show of historic reconciliatoin of local importance was staged in Shatoi District. Militants agreed to hand in armoured vehicles and part of weapons, release prisoners-of-war and fully turn the District over to the jurisdiction of Groznyy. In response, a paratroop unit stationed there is being withdrawn from the District.

"At the same time, without much ado, in the republic's east, Federal troops have blockaded the main stronghold of Dudayev resistance — Novogroznenskiy township — where the headquarters of Aslan Maskhadov is located. During talks with local representatives, Anatoly Kvashnin, Commander of the North Caucasian Military District, promised to raze Novogroznensky to the ground within 30 minutes if militants refuse to disarm themselves."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA quotes Anatoliy Kvashnin as saying that Novogroznenskiy and its outskirts are the largest and most populous Chechen area controlled by Dudayev militants. it is precisely there that Aslan Maskhadov, the so-called Chief of Staff of Dudayev forces, Shamil Basayev and Salman Raduyev, stay permanently.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI reports that it has learned that Aman Tuleyev is prepared to withdraw its candidacy from the presidential race in the very first round.

"Gennadiy Zyuganov could not even imagine a better present. The Kemerovo leader was his only real rival inside the Communist Party, who had a number of advantages.

"It remains to guess how Zyuganov has managed to persuade the rival with such excellent qualities into withdrawing without a fight. It is obvious that the temptation to settle scores with the present Russian leadership is so great that it overpowers all the other motives and deprives even the most sober-minded Communists of the most elementary sense of self-preservation."

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA carries a government instruction which sets out measures of support for Russian commodity producers.

In this connection the newspaper runs an article about a government meeting on February 9, at which Minister of Economics Yevgeniy Yasin pointed out in particular that production slump slowed down last year, running at three per cent as against 21 in 1994. The following regularity is observed: things are going in the best way with export-oriented producers.

The Ministry-presented notes that the Russian industry pattern continues to deteriorate. The share of mining, raw-materials production sectors grow, whereas that of processing, high-technology industry shrinks.

"Foreign governments not only turn Russia into their market for substandard foodstuffs but also subsidise those who bring food into the Russian Federation. This is a real pricing agression directed against national producers."

The Ministry of Economics has suggested that a government resolution be prepared to fix quotas for the import of commodities which are subsidised by foreign countries. With this end in view, a commission on foreign-trade protection measures should be set up to inquire into instances of damage done to the Russian industry.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA runs a critical commentary on the latest pronouncements by Vyacheslav Kostikov.

"The ex-Press Secretary followed the nascent trend among our officialdom: while holding an official position (lest he should be forgotten afterwards), he has published memoirs in the 'V. Kostikov and the tragedy of Russian Liberalism' style.

"Besides, the Ambassador decided orally to sermonise the Presidential staff. Putting it in a nutshell, this is a story which is usual for present-day Russia. And author's fee is higher for those people in official positions who are not yet covered with the dust of oblivion," the commentator writes.

Russia: Yeltsin Discusses Reforms With Ambassadors

LD1202141996 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1259 GMT 12 Feb 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 Feb (ITAR-TASS) — Partnership with other countries is an integral part of Russian reforms, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said as he welcomed about twenty ambassadors of several countries who presented their credentials today.

The president said Russia expected its foreign partners to respect its legitimate interests. The partnership must be based on equality, whether it is a question of European security, or relations between CIS countries, or world trade.

The president said Russia "is going through an extremely important period in its history: parliamentary elections have been held and presidential elections are at hand. It is important to discern the main point in our jigsaw-like political life — that Russia's movement toward creating a law-based state and reforming the economy is gathering momentum." Yeltsin said the president was the guarantor of the stability of this course. He also said that following a difficult start of reforms, Russia has entered a period of stabilization and economic upturn. Regarding the priorities of Russia's foreign policy, Yeltsin said integration with foreign states; development of all-around relations with European, Asian, and Latin American countries; and membership in international and interstate organizations are Russia's main foreign policy priorities. Russia is aware of the influence it can exert on the world as part of the international community. Russia's domestic and foreign policy, and the state of Russia's economy and trade — all this has its impact on the shape of the world on the eve of the 21st century. The president said Russia would do everything it could to ensure that freedom, justice, order, and the supremacy of human rights prevail in the world.

Those presenting their credentials included the ambassadors of Great Britain, Austria, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Albania, Belgium, Slovenia, Republic of South Africa, Venezuela, Cuba, and other countries.

Russia: Foreign Ministry Official Condemns London Bombing

LD1202224996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2008 GMT 12 Feb 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 12 (INTERFAX) — The terrorist act committed in London last Friday cannot be justified, no matter by what principles those who planned and implemented this action were guided, Deputy Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Second European Department Vladimir Chizhov told INTERFAX Monday.

Russia cannot remain indifferent to the terrorist act, he said.

"Terrorism deserves condemnation in any of its forms and manifestations, at all meridians and latitudes," Chizhov said. "That is the principle position of Russia and the entire world community," he said.

Two people were killed and over 100 injured as a result of a powerful bomb planted by the Irish Republican Army in London's eastern business area.

Russia especially regrets that the blast in London blew up following a 17-month truce and after the talks on settlement of the conflict in Northern Ireland were launched and were advancing although with difficulty, Chizhov said.

Talks are likely to become much more difficult after the terrorist act, Chizhov said.

Russia's position remains unchanged. Old problems, no matter how difficult and complicated they are, must be resolved by talks and compromises and not by terrorist acts or use of force. There is no alternative. The entire world history proves that, Chizhov said.

Chizhov said he did not want to think that talks on settlement of the Northern Ireland problem had been crossed out. "We hope that the parties concerned will be patient and wise enough" to prevent another escalation of violence in Northern Ireland, he said.

Armed struggle in Northern Ireland had continued for some quarter of the century before the truce was established, Chizhov said. The number of dead from both sides runs into thousands, he said.

The hopelessness of terrorism as a means to achieve political goals is obvious in Northern Ireland, Chechnya, Bosnia and any other place of the world, Chizhov said.

Russia: Moscow Urges Immediate Lifting of Sanctions on Bosnia

LD1202215496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2142 GMT 12 Feb 96

[By Sergey Baybakov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] UNITED NATIONS, February 13 (ITAR-TASS) — "Russia continues to adhere to the position that sanctions against Bosnian Serbs should be lifted immediately after the disengagement of the warring factions in Bosnia-Herzegovina as provided for in the Dayton accords," Russian permanent representative to the United Nations Sergey Lavrov told ITAR-TASS on Monday.

Commenting on NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana's letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali in which he quoted the IFOR [Implementation Force] commander as saying that Bosnian Serbs had withdrawn their forces from the regions to be handed over to another administrative entity.

"In other words, he confirmed that Bosnian Serb forces have been withdrawn two kilometres from their positions, which create conditions for lifting international sanctions on the Serbs," Lavrov said.

"According to Resolution No. 222, the disengagement of the warring factions and the notification of the Security Council thereof are considered as the starting point for the full lifting of sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs. Moreover, it should occur automatically and does not require any decisions or statements on the part of the Security Council," Lavrov said.

Russia: Army Paper Sums Up Grachev Bosnia Visit

MM1302112796 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Pelts: "Neutrality and Impartiality Are the Main Principles Governing the Actions of the Bosnia Peacekeeping Forces. This Is the Conclusion Drawn by Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation Minister of Defense"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The defense minister commented on the results of his inspection visit to Bosnia and subsequent official visit to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY).

Let us remind you that the crisis in the Balkans has spawned an enormous number of problems affecting the interests of many big world powers. Multilateral peacekeeping forces have now been moved into the region in accordance with the Dayton agreements. They also include a Russian peacekeeping brigade. Before visiting the areas where the brigade is stationed Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense, met with General George Joulwan, supreme commander in chief of the NATO Allied Forces in Europe. They mainly discussed the organization of interaction between the Russian servicemen and their "neighbors" — Americans from the U.S. 1st Armored Division.

Gen. G. Joulwan spoke highly of the Russian airborne landing troops' professional training. "They have strong discipline and good commanders," he stressed. "Despite the fact that the airborne landing troops gave been on station for little more than a week cooperation among the peacemakers from the multinational forces is in excellent shape."

For his part Army General Pavel Grachev stressed that the main objective of his inspection visit was to study the situation and render the necessary assistance to the Russian peacekeeping brigade.

And there is a need for this. The warring sides have left a "legacy" of more than 4,000 minefields. It is not only the absence of precise data which is making it difficult to find and destroy them. During the past few days Bosnia has seen an event which, according to local inhabitants, has not happened for a decade — deep snow. The situation deteriorated severely. Journalists were able to convince themselves of this when they visited the Russian checkpoints in the separation zone between the opposing sides.

...The road over the pass winds first above a deep chasm, then under an overhanging crag. You constantly come across abandoned tiny villages. The blackened eye-sockets of blown-out windows and charred walls of the houses against the the white snow has a particularly sinister air. War has passed this way. Nobody lives here now. And only a checkpoint suddenly appearing around the next bend in the road testifies that there is still hope that people will return, hope of a peaceful and tranquil life. This is precisely why the peacekeepers have come.

Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev asked the paratroopers about literally everything — from the checkpoint's precise task to water supplies and newspaper deliveries. He listened attentively to reports from commanding officers and chatted with paratroopers. And constantly repeated — You must not relax! You must live and fulfill your tasks combat-style — especially at night! In one of the tents where the paratroopers live we spoke with Sergeant Georgiy Zagranichnyy and Privates Igor Zarubich and Sergey Lovdeyev. All three are contract soldiers. They have been at this post for only a week. There is still a great deal of fitting-out work to be done, but they are pretty solidly equipped. There were Americans here before. Now the post is ours. "We live better than they did," the paratroopers claim. "They had dried rations whereas we have hot food and we're warm. If only they could get newspapers to us...."

It is a small post — five tents at the side of the road. On the other side there are small red flags. There are mines over there. When there is no snow you can see the wires from here.

...Our paratroopers live and work in these kinds of conditions at approximately all the fortified posts. Things are a little calmer in Ugljevik, which is 35 kilometers from Tuzla, and Simin Han, where the Russian brigade's command and control bodies are located. But there's plenty to worry about here too. It is necessary to organize direct supplies of water and fuel and build closer contacts with the local authorities, without which the tasks which have been set cannot be fulfilled. And this was the subject of yet another conversation between the defense minister and brigade commanders and personnel. "It is necessary to have a clear picture of the essence of the peacekeeping operation," the Russian defense minister stressed. "You must remember that you are the embodiment of great Russia here."

The situation in the zone for which the Russian brigade is responsible remains complex. And although all the peacekeeping forces came to the conflict zone with weapons, Army General Pavel Grachev considered it necessary to specially note that a peacekeeper must use weapons like a surgeon uses a scalpel — with caution, precision, and sense.

The meeting with personnel ended with an event which gave pleasure to many Russian peacekeepers. The Russian Federation minister of defense thanked them for their high-standard fulfillment of the first phase of operation "Joint Endeavor," and three of them — paratroop regiment commander Major Aleksandr Dementyev, curfew platoon commander Lieutenant Vadim Govorov, and paratroop platoon commander Senior Lieutenant Konstantin Tarubarov — were given promotions ahead of schedule.

Having completed his inspection visit to the Russian peacekeeping brigade, Army General Parel Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister, arrived in Belgrade. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already reported on the talks held there.

The main topics were not only questions of further cooperation between the sides to settle the crisis in the Balkans but also questions of safeguarding European security. Assessing the results of his visit to Bosnia, Army General Pavel Grachev considered it necessary to reemphasize yet again that neutrality and impartiality toward the conflicting sides on the part of the peacekeepers is the most important condition for the success of the joint armed forces operation.

A plan for bilateral cooperation between the Russian and Yugoslav Defense Ministries for 1996 was signed during the visit. It envisages the continuation of consultations between the sides on the development of the military-political situation in the Balkans and Europe as a whole, exchanges of military delegations, and seeking paths for closer military-technical cooperation between Russia and the FRY. In addition, agreement was reached on creating a joint commission of representatives of the two countries' military departments to formulate specific proposals for further partnership and cooperation in the military field.

I would like to note that Western correspondents were more interested in the problem of NATO enlargement and Russia's reaction to it than in the Russian peacekeeping forces in Bosnia. Army General Pavel Grachev stressed that if Russia's position — which is well known, incidentally — is ignored "...we will be forced to adopt appropriate measures to strengthen our security." In general he described his visit to the FRY as successful. "The talks took place in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and openness," the Russian Federation defense minister concluded.

Russia: Primakov, Christopher Relations, Helsinki Meetings Viewed

MM1202173896 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Feb 96 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Nadein: "Primakov and Christopher Agree To Avoid Surprises as Instrument of Diplomacy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — Yevgeniy Primakov's appointment was greeted in America with such real resentment that it was as if he had been made not a Russian minister but conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. For a month curses rained down on him, and nothing was expected from Helsinki.

Helsinki sprang a surprise. Yevgeniy Primakov, Russian minister, and Warren Christopher, U.S. secretary of state, started calling each other by their first names. Or, in our language, they have started using the "thou" form of address.

For a long time this form of address was considered a considerable diplomatic achievement on Kozyrev's part. But friendship between statesmen is a phenomenon with a special quality. Wholly subordinate to state interests, it knows neither devotion nor permanency. There are other measures of respect. THE NEW YORK TIMES newspaper quotes U.S. officials who "were impressed by his (Primakov's) preparation and mastery of detail: He never once looked at his notes — unlike Kozyrev, who did so liberally."

U.S. journalists also note that the forging of a relationship between the two foreign policy department leaders was helped by their common features: They are almost the same age (Christopher is a little older), and both have been involved in academic activity.

U.S. observers see the meeting's main results as being not progress but a confirmation of former positions.

Probably there would have been less joy about this had the Americans not scared themselves with the image of an inflexible Bolshevik who had leapt out of the shadows of the main espionage office.

Running through the commentaries there is unconcealed satisfaction that Primakov has excluded a return to the Cold War, stressed the importance of relations with the United States, rejected the likelihood of the Soviet Union's recreation, and promised to respect the former Soviet republics' sovereignty and not to unilaterally violate collectively made UN decisions. Here Christopher's interest reached its peak, insofar as the previous day a Baghdad agency had reported a 10-billion (dollar) deal to rebuild the Iraqi oil industry. But the Russian minister reassured his colleague here, saying that it was a matter for the future, once UN sanctions have been lifted.

Primakov and Christopher agreed on one other thing: continuing to pursue a "no surprises" policy. Each side promised to hold consultations and give notification and explanations in order to avoid taking its partners by surprise, provoking in them not only a natural irritation regarding the particular issue but also distrust of policy as a whole.

It will not be easy for the sides to keep to this. Primakov has yet to feel how difficult it is to bridle the gelding of foreign policy, which is being whipped from all sides by the Kremlin's lively favorites. Christopher is under pressure from Congress and public opinion, which are demanding less hobnobbing with a weak country that has forgotten nothing and learned nothing. And this pressure will increase.

It can be considered a Primakov success that Denis Ross is coming to Moscow this week. This diplomat achieved success in reconciling Syria and Israel. "At the end of the day Russia is cochairman of the Madrid Peace Conference, under whose aegis the current talks are taking place," THE NEW YORK TIMES explains the need for these consultations, as if making excuses.

Such a practice existed under Gorbachev, when the ailing USSR was still spending money on world affairs. In subsequent years Christopher repeatedly promised "my friend Andrey" that he would inform Moscow of his overseas intentions. He promised, but every time he either forgot or simply considered it unnecessary to excite in nuclear-missile Russia the unbridled arrogance of acting like a superpower.

Will the Americans' enthusiasm for revealing their trump cards last long? From the viewpoint of Michael Dobbs, special correspondent of THE WASHINGTON POST, the meeting in Helsinki should increase the self-respect of Russian diplomats and of all those who are involved in foreign policy.

Despite Primakov's assurances the Americans left Helsinki with the feeling that, unlike his predecessor, the new minister is not giving relations with Washington pride of place in his strategy. Maybe Primakov was deliberately trying to achieve this effect. He frequently recalled that differences of opinion, which according to him always have existed, do exist, and always will exist, must be resolved peacefully.

Washington has still to decide which of Moscow's forces was speaking through Primakov: the Kremlin, the house on the Embankment, the house on Smolensk Square, or Yevgeniy Maksimovich Primakov himself. Much attention will be devoted to this question. Of course, not as much as to helping the elderly. Not as much as to the need to be a little stricter in recovering money from people paying alimony. Not even as much as to the recent law dismissing servicemen suffering from AIDS from the Army.

There are around 150 such people in the U.S. Army. This is a big topic in election year. From the viewpoint of ordinary voters it is clearly greater and more important than relations with the entire former USSR.

Russia: Chernomyrdin's U.S. Visit Deemed 'Big Scam'

MM1202142796 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 10 Feb 96 p 3

[Article by Candidate of Economic Sciences Oleg Cherkovets: "The Big Scam... What Will IMF Executive Director Michel Camdessus Bring to Moscow?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Premier V. Chernomyrdin's grand tour of the United States is over, the dust has settled on the sixth session of the Russian-U.S. intergovernmental commission on economic and technological cooperation (the "Gore-Chernomyrdin commission"), and the observers have made their assessments. The following short phrase sums up the results of Chernomyrdin's meeting with White House boss B. Clinton, the talks with Vice President A. Gore, and the other meetings and conversations: "A big scam!"

The U.S. leaders delivered tirades on the "pursuit of our common interests" and on "remarkable achievements" in the joint commission's work. But the world's press has not overlooked the main point — that mutual relations have been built on the "master-vassal" principle (or the "client," to use Z. Brzezinski's utterly cynical expression to the effect that Russia is not a partner but a "client of the United States").

After B. Yeltsin himself gave "friend Bill" servile assurances by telephone of the "immutability of the reform course" in Russia on the eve of the premier's departure for Washington, the Number 2 man in the Kremlin was forced personally to persuade his "masters" in the talks that the notorious "reforms" in our country are "continuing" despite the absence of their beloved "Gaydarites" from the leadership. The world's news agencies reported that the U.S. leadership "is satisfied with the course of the reforms in Russia."

But did B. Clinton and his right-hand man A. Gore really believe Chernomyrdin's absurd remark that in Russia the "reform course" received support in the 17 December elections even though the simple arithmetic of the percentages attests to the complete opposite?! Did they believe that the election defeat of the premier himself and the movement he heads was in fact a major triumph for them?!

Of course not. They have long been accustomed to the political and economic bluff of their satellites or "clients" (as Z. Brzezinski put it). It is simply that in today's situation it suits Clinton and Gore to pretend that they believed Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin when they said that the "reforms are proceeding." Admittedly, Clinton's talk of "great satisfaction" with the "economic indicators achieved by Russia in 1995" did sound odd. The U.S. President repeated all the fairy stories from the Russia Is Our Home TV election broadcasts — about the "slow down in inflation" and the "stabilization of production." In other words, they believed all those things that the Russian electors did not believe on 17 December, unfortunately for "friend Bill."

So why did the U.S. Administration need to "pander" like this? Why did it not laugh in the face of the premier who had been rejected by the voters when he pompously "promised" his "masters": "We will choose the right man for the job." Who is this "we," I wonder? And what price the "promises" of a politician who stands on "feet of clay"? That price is well known — nevertheless, the "masters" approvingly patted their "client" on the shoulder and signed the final documents with him. These documents also contain the purpose of the show put on by the current "tenants" of the Washington White House.

According to the mass media, a total of 25 different agreements were signed and seven statements were adopted. Some of them — for example the much-publicized ecological initiative — are frankly propagandist in character. The others are directly beneficial to the U.S. side. This relates primarily to space where the Americans will be able to use our orbital station during joint flights. The commentaries by servile journalists that Russia has been "allowed" into the world commercial satellite launch market is frankly insulting. Translated into normal business language this means that the Yanks will use our launchers on the cheap for their satellites and even act as benefactors!

This is pure profit, and considerable profit too. Several guaranteed launches between now and 16 June — and at least a few tens of millions, perhaps even hundreds of million of "greenbacks." But what is the real outlay here? They made several loud promises (they are real virtuosos at that!) to "support" Russia in the final resolution of the question of the opening of the IMF's $9 billion credit, as our readers already know. Why should they not give their support, it isn't their money after all, it is the IMF's! Especially given that after the IMF delegation's talks in Moscow ended, the IMF postponed the final decision for two-three weeks, it is reported. So there you have it! By then February will be virtually over, the promises of "support" will remain just promises, but the satellites will already have been launched.

But if the IMF decision is going to be adopted, when might the first tranche of the credits reach Russia? After all, no one is stopping the "masters" from drawing up the "timetable" for receipt of this money (I would remind you that this credit is supposed to be issued over a three-year period) in such a way that the first "slice" will be due.... late June or in July! And then if something happens which the "masters" dislike the money supply can easily be turned off. Zero risk but enormous gain.

But at the moment another agreement is being signed which is not just profitable to the United States — this one offers superprofits: Under this agreement the U.S. Export-Import Bank is going to open up a $1 billion targeted credit. According to the Moscow-published U.S. newspapers MOSCOW TIMES and MOSCOW TRIBUNE, Aeroflot, the recipient of the credit, will have to use these dollars for a specific purpose: the purchase of engines for 20 new Il-96 airbuses from the Pratt and Whitney company, a subdivision of the gigantic United Technologies corporation. For a power with pretensions to greatness and which (for the time being!) produces its own aircraft to acquire engines for them not from its own machine building industry but from their rivals (!) and furthermore in a country which is potentially the main adversary in the event of a conflict (!!) and has even taken a loan for this purpose which will have to be repaid with interest (!!!) — you need a "powerful figure" like Chernomyrdin as premier for that kind of thing! There has surely never been anything like this in the history of the developed nations before.

Now a few words about our own aircraft production. According to the agreement which has been signed, Russia is going to open its own aircraft market to the Boeing corporation. Unless the anti-national [antinatsionalnyy] policy is halted on 16 June [date of Russian presidential election] the Americans will have the opportunity legally to suffocate our aircraft makers on our own territory by supplying their own planes for our air fleet — and all this for a miserable $1 billion which will all be spent on maintaining their jobs. This truly is the "deal of the century" — a deal between the lamb and the butcher!

Finally, there is the purely commercial aspect to the talks. As usual our country has been denied the status of a "country with a transitional economy," a status which would provide certain trade-economic and financial advantages and which the present regime is so zealously trying to obtain from its "friends." It did not happen: The "master" believes that the "client" still has not earned such gratuities! Furthermore, Russia is still being denied most-favored status, which means only one thing — that our goods will still be crippled by punitive taxes in the U.S. market. As is happening, for example, with our uranium. Let us recall that under the Russian-U.S. agreement our country was allowed to offer only spent "weapons-grade" plutonium from dismantled warheads in the U.S. market. Russia was set to earn an extremely substantial income but some of the "masters" did not like that, of course. As a result the U.S. authorities accused the Russian side of supplying natural uranium instead of the "military" variety and imposed a 116 percent duty on it! That is not the only example of this kind.

Replying to the Russian "client's" timid attempts to remind the "masters" about their many promises to resolve the question of the most-favored nation status and revoke the Jackson-Vanik amendment from U.S. law, which openly discriminates against our country, Vice President Gore insultingly "promised to resolve this question by the end of the year." Such promises do not cost much given that there are going to be presidential elections before that both in Russia and the United States after which both sides at the talks could be replaced entirely!

But the Russian market is already wide open to stale U.S. food and medicines, liquor, and cigarettes which are past their sell-by date and are banned from sale in the United States itself. But in our country — go right ahead, we have no barriers or restrictions on trade as far as the "masters" are concerned. A "client" is a "client," after all!

I think that the Americans themselves have long had no illusions about the "Gore-Chernomyrdin commission" or about the fate of the notorious "Russian reforms" in general. But even with the Russian "clients" in their present half-dead state the "masters" can still obtain considerable material advantage by restricting themselves to empty promises — for as long as this suits them. And that is the whole problem!

Russia: Chairman Says U.S. Diamond Partners 'Deceived Us'

LD1202210796 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 12 Feb 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The scandal around Russia's Committee for Precious Metals and Stones took a new twist today. The head of the committee, despite protests by the procurator's office, flew abroad. He claims that he was fighting for the interests of the country, and certain forces were trying to get in his way.

Our television company managed to meet Yevgeniy Bychkov, chairman of the Russian Committee for Precious Metals and Stones, at Vnukovo Airport today, literally a few minutes before he set off on a business trip. The normal business tempo of the head of the country's gold and diamond reserves continued despite the efforts by the prosecutor's office, which has preferred two criminal charges against Bychkov.

Bychkov, who pledged an investigator who had levelled serious charges against him that he would not leave the country was, nonetheless, able to obtain permission to leave his homeland in order to pay a familiarization visit as part of a delegation to Namibia and Botswana. These countries, just like Russia, are among the major diamond-mining states. Bychkov prepared in advance a written statement for the press, probably foreseeing the journalist's interest in his disgraced persona. However, he did not refuse to comment verbally.

[Begin Bychkov recording] We wanted to create in the United States a bulwark for the sale of diamonds, of ready-made products. We wanted to open a credit line, but our American partners deceived us. That is it, simply it. [end recording]

It has been learned from sources close to the supervisory directorate under the president, that this verification department a year ago established that Bychkov and several other high-ranking officials in 1993-1994 planned and carried out actions to export, on a commercial pretext, precious state metals from Russia to the United States, as a result of which $200 million disappeared from the state treasury. Now Bychkov is accused of abusing his post and violating the law on hard currency regulation.

[Begin Bychkov recording] Roskomdragmet is the only organization of its kind. It is a federal administration body, which at the same time, also has commercial affairs. If for a businessman, no profits is simply no profits, for Roskomdragmet that is a criminal matter. [end recording] [passage omitted: correspondent says prosecutor general's office refused to comment]

Russia: Gazprom Seen Backing U.S.-Russian Satellite Project

MM1202202896 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 10 Feb 96 pp 1,2

["Joint Ventures" report by Viktor Yurlov: "'Yamal' Begins in Moscow Oblast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gazprom's new projects know no frontiers. Either space or sector. Their implementation will have a beneficial effect on many spheres of the Russian national economy.

A snow-white cylinder, bearing no resemblance to the conventional contours of a spacecraft, stands in the middle of the assembly shop at the Energiya space-rocket company. Were it not for the Buran standing in the neighboring shop — you have to pass under its wings to get here — and the accordion-like array of solar batteries, the cylinder could be anything. Particularly as it bears on its side a name that has not yet gotten its residence permit in space — "Yamal."

It is, as the deputy general designer explained, the booster stage for a future platform unlike anything else the world has to offer.

The unique object is not being kept under lock and key. It can be photographed and even touched. Moreover, a large group of U.S. specialists was allowed in. Some of them certainly did not represent U.S. scientific components. No one was frightened by this. On the contrary, showing them was, as it were, a delicate hint at the yawning gap between the practical developments of the two countries' space centers. In our favor, of course.

Actually the company's managers did not forget to stress that the difficulties in reforming the country's economy led to cutbacks in budget funding of space research and development. This meant that many unique production processes were halted, the rate of retooling fell sharply, and there was a partial exodus of specialists. As a result, 10 of the 12 communications satellites in orbit today are past their guaranteed operating life, and preparations have been made to replace only two of them.

It is a sad prospect — a space power left without space communications by the end of the century. Fortunately, this will not happen. There are plans to launch two Yamal communications satellites, funded by the Gazprom Russian joint-stock company, next year. This should not be thought of as an act of charity. The world's leading gas concern is on the verge of developing the Arctic shelf, and the reserves there will keep us all warm throughout the next century. Without reliable communications such projects could be stillborn. That is why, according to Nikolay Sevostyanov, general director of the Gazkom joint-stock company, this is particularly relevant for the North, where ground communications are as still underdeveloped.

The Loral corporation, one of the world's biggest and most prestigious, was behind the deal. Its 30 companies supply electronics for the U.S. defense industry, control systems, and modeling and information systems. The Space Systems/Loral company is equally authoritative. Its main area of activity is the production of communications and weather satellites and components: onboard retransmitters, antennas, control systems, onboard computers, propulsion units, and so on.

"Our company possesses sophisticated technology," its president, Robert Berry, said. "Energiya's achievements are also recognized worldwide. The task is to fully exploit the opportunities offered by the space age. Our collaboration has a great future. We have spent several months working on this agreement in order to find mutual understanding. And we succeeded."

That opinion is shared by Energiya president Yuriy Semenov:

"The implementation of this project will enable us to attain world standards in the communications sphere. But not only that. At the same time it will help us maintain our rocket potential and continue long-term scientific developments."

The meeting participants made a decision on cooperation in the sphere of creating and operating satellite communications and television systems, which was formalized by an Agreement on Strategic Partnership. As if setting the entire world an example of mutually advantageous cooperation between major world firms on different sides of the ocean, the sides signed yet another document on cooperation to improve the production complex of the entire Russian gas industry.

Commenting on the results of the meeting, Valeriy Remizov, deputy chairman of the Gazprom Russian joint-stock company board, said that the second agreement will determine the concern's production policy for a long time to come.

"We are constantly criticized," he stressed, "for buying equipment abroad. Maybe so. This project will be implemented in full on Russian territory. Extra jobs will be created, and challenging Russia technology will find its way onto the world market. Moreover, only half the capacity of the Yamal satellites will be employed in the Gazprom system. The other half will serve the country."

On the same day the space-rocket company's bosses showed their guests what they can offer today. It appears that the highly efficient, self-contained, ecologically clean power units with phosphoric acid fuel elements operating on natural gas, to supply gas industry facilities with electricity, heat, and drinking water caught the gasmen's fancy. And the general-purpose units using liquefied natural gas as motor fuel for transport, machinery, and mechanisms could be taken up in the very near future. Remember that that a major Gazprom program to switch transport to gas motor fuel is gathering momentum.

Russia: Institute Head Rogov Comments on NATO Expansion

LD1202211796 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 12 Feb 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer Tatyana Khudobina] During the French prime minister's visit to Moscow, the question of NATO's eastward expansion is likely to be discussed.

Professor Sergey Rogov, head of the U.S. and Canada Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, made his views on this problem known during an interview with our correspondent today.

[Unidentified correspondent] The question of NATO's eastward expansion is, first and foremost, one of the role that has been assigned to Russia within the post cold-war world system, Professor Rogov thinks.

Despite all the assurances from the West that the move is not directed against Russia, this policy, in Rogov's view, may lead to a new division and confrontation.

[Begin Rogov recording] What transpires here is, on the one hand, NATO's expansion, a fairly realistic and practical prospect. This will be reflected in tangible steps linked with the participation of some Eastern European states in the North Atlantic alliance.

So far, the special relationship between Russia and NATO has simply been a hollow phrase. [end recording]

[Correspondent] The West ought to be aware that Russia's isolation will entail instability in Europe, the scientist thinks. At the same time, he has termed an absolute bluff the tit-for-tat type of statements being made in our country, albeit not officially. Expressed in military terms, such statements imply an arms race.

[Begin Rogov recording] History shows that it is very dangerous to be tough if you can not.... [break in reception] [end recording]

[Correspondent].... foreign policy of the last few years, we have been unable to arrive at our own concept of Russian interests. He does, however, think that new Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov will be able to come up with such a concept.

Russia: Foreign Ministry on Golan Peacekeeping Participation

LD1202142396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 12 (INTERFAX) — Russian Foreign Ministry officials said on Monday that Russia may participate in a peacekeeping mission in the Golan Heights.

In an interview with INTERFAX, director of the Department of the Middle East and North Africa Andrey Vdovin said that Moscow considers "Russian participation in a peacekeeping operation in the Golan Heights area quite realistic."

However, he noted that "specific parameters of security measures on the Syrian-Israeli border, including a mechanism of international guarantees for the peace agreement, will be worked out at the future, more advanced, stages of Syrian-Israeli settlement."

Speaking about the conflict settlement in the region, Vdovin stressed that Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov has sent a series of messages to his Middle East counterparts to agree specific forms of future contacts.

"Personal meetings between Yevgeniy Primakov and Middle East leaders will undoubtedly become an important factor in the implementation of Russia's policy in that part of the world," he said.

Russia: Further on Russian Peacekeeping in Golan Heights

LD1202232896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2008 GMT 12 Feb 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 12 (INTERFAX) — Russian Foreign Ministry officials said on Monday that Russia may participate in a peacekeeping mission in the Golan Heights.

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However, he noted that "specific parameters of security measures on the Syrian-Israeli border, including a mechanism of international guarantees for the peace agreement, will be worked out at the future, more advanced, stages of Syrian-Israeli settlement."

Moscow would hail a breakthrough to peace agreements between Damascus and Tel Aviv this year, Vdovin said.

Nevertheless, he declined to give any forecast. "It is a rather risky business to evaluate the possibility of these or those talks being a success," Vdovin said. "Russia is now making active moves to contribute to Syrian-Israeli dialogue and speedier reaching of agreement between Damascus and Tel Aviv," he said.

Speaking about the conflict settlement in the region, Vdovin stressed that Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov has sent a series of messages to his Middle East counterparts to agree specific forms of future contacts.

"Personal meetings between Yevgeniy Primakov and Middle East leaders will undoubtedly become an important factor in the implementation of Russia's policy in that part of the world," he said.

Vdovin said he disagreed with those saying that while the United States was intensifying its mediatory activity, the Russian co-sponsor of the Middle East settlement had allegedly been left out in the cold.

"When speaking about Middle East affairs it would be absolutely wrong to portray Russia and the United States as sprinters fighting for victory in the race," Vdovin said.

Moscow believes that the efforts made by the co-sponsors, sometimes joint or sometimes parallel, are after the same goal: establishment of comprehensive, fair and solid peace in the Middle East as soon as possible, he said.

Furthermore, all participants in the Middle East peace process, including Israel, Syria or Palestinians, have always emphasized the importance of Russia's role in the talks and requested Russia to continue its active co-sponsor contribution to peace in the region, Vdovin said.

Russia: Germany, France Seek To Turn Russia Into Partner

LD1202203396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1842 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BONN, February 12 (ITAR-TASS) — "France and the Federal Republic of Germany have a common wish to turn Russia, this great country and its great people, into a partner," French Prime Minister Alain Juppe told ITAR-TASS in Bonn on Monday.

During his short working visit to Germany, he held talks with Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl in the course of which both sides also discussed problems of their relations with Russia in the light of forthcoming visits to Moscow of the French premier and the German leader. "We intend to pursue an active policy of the development of partnership with Russia," Juppe said summing up the results of the talks.

Bonn and Paris stated their common aspiration to render further feasible assistance to Russian reforms, promote cooperation between the European Union and persuade Moscow that the NATO eastward expansion is in no way directed against Russia.

There are already agreements on partnership and cooperation between the European Union and Russia, the prime minister noted. In his view, the conclusion of a corresponding agreement between the "expanded NATO" and Russia would be in accord with the interests of the system of collective security in Europe.

Therefore, everything that promotes the strengthening of partnership between Europe and Russia, will be a step in the right direction, Juppe said.

"It is important that Russia would not feel that it is isolated," the French premier noted.

"France welcomes the fact that Russia has been invited to join the Council of Europe. We are also ready to back Russia's entry into other international organisation if Moscow fulfills the necessary requirements," Juppe said.

In this connection the French premier did not rule out the possibility of turning the G-7 into the G-8.

"In the past years we already found a way to involve Russia in the work of the "seven." "It is in the spirit of such cooperation that a meeting of leaders of industrialised countries and Russia on problems of nuclear security will be held in Moscow in April this year," Juppe said.

Russia: French Premier Juppe Interviewed on Russian Ties

MM1302102696 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Feb 96 pp 1,3

[Interview with French Premier Alain Juppe by Yuriy Kovalenko in Paris; date not given: "Alain Juppe: The Europe of the Future Will Not Be Built Without Russia. French Premier Gives Interview to IZVESTIYA

Correspondent Yuriy Kovalenko on Eve of Visit to Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kovalenko] After a protracted period of stagnation in Franco-Russian relations the flame of political dialogue has once again flared up now at the highest level. What brought this revival in our two countries' mutual interest?

[Juppe] France and Russia are two friendly nations. This friendship forms part of our two countries' history. For us Russia is a partner, who plays an important role in building the new Europe. That is why dialogue with Russia is one of our diplomatic service's priorities.

I am glad that the climate of trust, which has arisen between Presidents Yeltsin and Chirac, in particular during their meeting in Rambouillet last October, is enabling a privileged partnership based on strong and dynamic relations to develop between our two countries.

[Kovalenko] Right now it does not seem that this political galvanization will be followed by the revival of economic ties. Commodity turnover between our countries is still paltry. In terms of investment Paris noticeably lags behind its Western partners. And the French export insurance company (KOFAS [name as transliterated]) — which is incidentally a state-run company — ranks Russia among the high risk countries along with African countries....

[Juppe] Needless to say, our economic ties have not as yet reached the scale of our political relations. It is true that the level of our economic exchange is still too low and that French capital investment in your country remains inadequate. I would like to point out however that, according to Russian statistics, France is now its third largest foreign investor. In 1995 trade exchange between our two countries rose. That is a positive sign. Although it is desirable — and possible — to do more. As far as KOFAS, which sets the level of export guarantee, is concerned it must take note of the definite difficulties that are still hampering the development of trade with Russia. Be that as it may, means of funding exist, which enable us to support French enterprises' projects in Russia.

Russia still has to make progress with reform in order for its markets to become more appealing. More stable legal structures must be created for the business world for instance, a modernized tax system elaborated, and so on. It is also necessary to try to ensure that people are better aware of Russia's tremendous potential. I hope that my visit will facilitate that. I will be accompanied by a large delegation of French enterprise leaders. For my part, I believe in Russia's future and I do not doubt that the above difficulties will be overcome.

[Kovalenko] Is the creation of the "Juppe-Chernomyrdin" Commission not another attempt to give a boost to our stunted economic ties? What are its priorities?

[Juppe] The commission represents an initiative made by Presidents Yeltsin and Chirac aimed at considerably enlivening our economic ties. I am going to Moscow to set up this commission with Mr. Chernomyrdin and to hold its first session. We hope that it will give a decisive boost to our exchanges. It should, among other things, help establish direct contacts between leaders of Russian and French enterprises. Our relations will grow stronger as partners and various economic players get to know one another better. Our priority is to examine the state of affairs in various sectors where we would like to step up our cooperation and advance the implementation of specific projects. We must also study the obstacles and possible difficulties that may slow down this cooperation. Mr. Chernomyrdin and I can outline guidelines and also make choices, act as arbiters, and take decisions in order to ensure that projects are not shelved.

[Kovalenko] The most painful foreign policy problem for Russia is the expansion of NATO. Jacques Chirac and Helmut Kohl say with one voice that "Russia must not be humiliated and condemned to isolation." But the question of admitting the countries of East Europe to NATO has virtually already been decided. And people in Moscow think that this is to the detriment of our country's interests.

[Juppe] We must advance the organization of the European continent together. The European Union [EU] is expanding. Russia and the CIS constitute an important partner for the EU. As far as security is concerned, the EU and the United States are closely linked within the framework of the North Atlantic alliance and these links must be maintained. The expansion of the EU and likewise of NATO is a natural process, which we welcome. It must not be perceived by Russia as a threat since we want at the same time to strengthen relations between NATO and Russia. You know that the NATO and Russian Armed Forces are cooperating in implementing the peace plan in the former Yugoslavia. We are of course aware of the Russians' misgivings. The expansion must be carefully prepared. No immediate or sudden decisions will be made. That is why 1996 will be devoted to reflection; why not make provision in this context for the formulation of a charter or a solemn agreement between NATO and Russia?

[Kovalenko] Mindful of NATO expansion, what role will Russia be left to play in the European security system?

[Juppe] I repeat that the Europe of the future will not be built without Russia, therefore it is necessary to take note of both its fears and its interests. That is why Presidents Chirac and Yeltsin decided to deepen Franco-Russian dialogue on the future architecture of European security. Apart from security issues France is trying to promote Russia's normal and essential integration into the international community. To that end we want to help Russia create conditions for its full-fledged accession to such highly important centers of multilateral cooperation as the G-7 or the World Trade Organization and we are also helping Russia to develop broad partnership ties with the EU. Its admission to the Council of Europe, which we facilitated and which we welcome, fits in with this.

[Kovalenko] You are coming to Moscow at the height of the election campaign. Boris Yeltsin will apparently officially announce his intention to run 15 February. Does he still have France's support? Does the outcome of the elections, which the Communists may win, affect Paris's policy toward Russia?

[Juppe] Russia is indeed on the verge of an important political event. The Russian people must make a choice. If I can voice a personal wish, it is this: May the election campaign make it possible to underline the gains of the reform policy pursued by President Yeltsin. As in any transitional historical period there are many difficulties. However, remarkable results have already been achieved in a relatively brief space of time. In particular, I would state that international financial organizations foresee an improvement in Russia's economic position in 1996. France will continue to back Russia's efforts in the economic sphere and also in providing aid during the transitional period for the concomitant social measures and in establishing a rule-of-law state.

[Kovalenko] Chechnya is still an open wound.... On the basis of its experience of combating Corsican separatists, how would France try to handle this problem were it in Russia's place?

[Juppe] Chechnya and Corsica have nothing in common: The drama of the Chechen crisis is that it has caused thousands of deaths. It has elicited a great deal of emotion and concern among the international public. France has always remained true to its principles. It is not terrorism, which we resolutely condemn, nor the use of military force that will resolve the conflict. Only talks aimed at securing a political settlement, which observe Russia's integrity and human rights, will enable this crisis to be resolved and put an end to the people's suffering. A peaceful solution must be found.

During my stay in Russia I will be visiting Kazan at President Shaymiyev's invitation. Two years ago the Republic of Tatarstan signed a treaty with Moscow recognizing the republic's national identity and establishing separation of powers with the Federation. Could you not follow that example?

Russia: Inspections Find No CFE Breaches in Transcaucasus Group

MM1202151396 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Feb 96 p 3

[Report by Vitaliy Denisov under "News" rubric: "International Inspections Found No Violations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Three international inspections have visited the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus over the past 10 days to verify fulfillment of the provisions of the Vienna Document and the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

The German and British representatives chose the Russian units stationed at Gyumri and Batumi as the subjects of inspections. In addition, the repair base of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus in the Georgian capital was also inspected. The foreign experts did not record any facts relating to violations of international agreements.

Russia: Army Paper on Georgia's Transfer of CFE Quotas to Russia

MM1202145796 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Feb 96 p 2

[Report by Vitaliy Denisov: "Georgia Has Transferred Its Part of the Quotas to Russia But Could Ask for Them Back at Any Moment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi — Over half the period provided for in the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe for confirming the final levels of arms reduction had elapsed before Georgia quite unexpectedly agreed to transfer to Russia its own quotas for stationing hardware and arms in a flank region.

It is a noteworthy fact that last November official Tbilisi refused to allow Moscow to station Russian arsenals on the republic's territory even temporarily. Obviously, significant changes have now occurred in Georgia's top echelons of power in the standoff between "westerners" geared to NATO and supporters of a military alliance with Russia.

Henceforth Russia can keep on Georgia's territory a larger number of tanks, armored personnel carriers, infantry fighting vehicles, and artillery systems with a caliber in excess of 100 mm. Admittedly, Lieutenant General Vardiko Nadibaidze, Georgian minister of defense, declared that Georgia can, if necessary, ask for the quotas to be returned, and the Russian side will be obliged, under the accord, to return them automatically.

Incidentally, Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgia's leader, has repeatedly declared that the question of the stationing of Russian military bases on the republic's territory will be submitted for discussion by parliament. It is logical to assume that this will happen in the very near future. But, first, the decision must be adopted by the head of state himself. If parliament approves the president's option, the Russian military presence in the Transcaucasus will be legitimated for at least two decades.

Russia: ROK's Stand on Tokto Island Issue Called 'More Convincing'

SK1302002396 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Korean 1200 GMT 12 Feb 96

[From the "Today's World" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Japanese Government sources, the Japanese cabinet will adopt a document this week in connection with the UN Law of the Sea. The adoption of the document may arouse serious territorial disputes between Japan and the neighboring countries.

(Sergey Agatinov), IZVESTIYA reporter based in Tokyo, writes: The UN Law of the Sea stipulates the obligations and rights of each country within the 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone [EEZ]. Officially recognized borderlines should be clarified before applying the law. However, Japan has at least two territorial problems over islands within its 200-nautical mile EEZ. The Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea are becoming a territorial issue between Japan and the PRC, and the territorial dispute over Tokto is becoming an acute issue between Japan and the ROK.

The islands had not become an issue until not long ago. The ratification of the UN Law of the Sea on the EEZ has put forward the issue. Japan recognizes that Tokto, a 200-square-meter uninhabited island, is a very useful island. Until not long ago, there had been only theoretical disputes over Tokto. Last week, the situation was extremely aggravated. Seoul began to build a berth on Tokto, which kindled working-level disputes between Japan and Seoul over the proprietorship of the island.

We do not need to elaborate on the exchange of claims between the two countries. It is difficult to predict how long the exchange of claims will continue. The issue can be resolved only through a compromise between the parties concerned. The issue is expected to be discussed at summit talks between the two countries scheduled for the second half of this year.

We have to pay attention to the fact that Seoul is more aggressive in the Tokto issue. It can be said that Seoul is overreacting to the territorial dispute over a small island and damaging the ROK's international reputation by insisting on Seoul's principled position. However, the ROK's position appears more convincing considering the fact that Tokto is closer to the ROK rather than Japan.

Russia: Explorer Konyukhov on Radioactivity in Antarctica

LD1302075396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0747 GMT 13 Feb 96

[By Leonid Vinogradov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIVOSTOK, February 13 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian traveler exploring Far East Fedor Konyukhov has declared at a news conference in Vladivostok today that turmoils caused by the development of nuclear power engineering do not reach Antarctica. Konyukhov said that the ice-bound continent remains free of radioactive substances and poses no treat to its inhabitants. The scientist arrived at this conclusion after he had measured the radiation level in Antarctica during his expedition to the South Pole.

The expedition was carried out in accordance with a programme worked out by the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry. Konyukhov measured the radiation level on the snow-bound soil en route 50 times by means of sophisticated equipment provided by experts along the distance of 1,350 kilometers, but the meters have not spotted any area whose radioactivity might arouse concern.

Earlier, there was only one nuclear power installation in Antarctica which supplied power to the US research station McMerdo, but it was dismantled and taken away from the continent, Konyukhov said. At present, power to all international research stations operating in Antarctica is supplied from diesel installations. Antarctica remains a "nuclear-free" zone and its erstwhile healthy environment remains intact, Konyukhov said.

Political Issues

Russia: Yeltsin To Tour Country Before Mid-Summer

LD1302113196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0852 GMT 13 Feb 96

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 13 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin will undertake several trips in Russia before mid-summer, journalists were told here today by Presidential Press Secretary Sergey Medvedev.

He said that the President had received invitation from the most diverse regions of Russia. "None of them were turned down, although, of course, Yeltsin will not be able to satisfy all of them, because they are much too numerous," Medvedev added. He said that priority would be given to the regions where the socio-economic situation is most difficult. Moreover, Yeltsin will try to go first of all the cities and regions, which he had not visited during his term of presidency.

Russia: Medvedev: Yeltsin Will Never Use 'Extremists'

LD1302103296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0936 GMT 13 Feb 96

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 13 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin will never use support offered to him by ultra-nationalists, presidential spokesman Sergey Medvedev told reporters on Tuesday.

"Boris Yeltsin will never use dubious services offered to him by extremists, people of alien moral principles," Medvedev said.

The press secretary commented on weekend's decision of some ultra-nationalist groups to support Yeltsin as a contender in the June presidential elections.

On Sunday, a congress of Russia's nationalist parties was close to unity as the participants voted by a broad margin for their backing to communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov in the forthcoming election.

However, at the end of the congress, Eduard Limonov, leader of national-Bolsheviks, in a volte-face fractured the vote by persuading the Popular National Party and the Party of National Accord to back President Yeltsin as a possible contender.

"Of cource, in conformity with the Constitution all Russian citizens, irrespective of their religion, party membership or convictions, have the right to nominate any citizen of the country for the presidency, provided this candidate meets constitutional requirements. However the President of Russia will never depend upon nationalists," Medvedev stressed.

Russia: Belyayev Discusses NDR's Support for Yeltsin

LD1202144896 Moscow NTV in Russian 1635 GMT 8 Feb 96

[Interview with Sergey Belyayev, leader of Russia Is Our Home parliamentary faction by Pavel Lapkov, including recorded remarks by Sergey Markov, Carnegie Fund staff member; from the "Hero of the Day" program — live]

[FBIS Summary] During the 25-minute interview Lapkov asks Belyayev about the sitting of the Russia Is Our Home [NDR] political council which unanimously put forward Boris Yeltsin as its presidential candidate. Belyayev answers that the sitting reached a more or less unanimous decision.

Belyayev states the movement was striving to be the main support of President Yeltsin. Belyayev states: "We are planning to bring pressure upon the government and the president because, in actual fact, a number of decisions are made at the level of the government and a number at the level of the president."

In separate recorded remarks, Sergey Markov, staff member of the Moscow branch of the Carnegie Fund, says: "Russia Is Our Home is a classic party of power and in this respect it will support the candidate put forward by the Kremlin. The Kremlin has so far come to rest upon Boris Yeltsin, therefore, Russia Is Our Home will work for Boris Yeltsin. It will put its entire electoral machine to serve Boris Yeltsin. Viktor Chernomyrdin will be sacrificed on the altar of the preelectoral campaign of Boris Yeltsin a bit closer to the elections, roughly toward the end of April or in May when it will be impossible for him to gather signatures to be put forward as a presidential candidate. Nearer to the elections Viktor Chernomyrdin will be accused of making all the mistakes that have been made in the economy, and again of nonpayments, of the fall in living standards, in order to ward off those accusations against Boris Yeltsin. Viktor Chernomyrdin understands that full well. Certain fluctuations in his movements are connected with that now, such as, for instance, his remarkable sudden departure on holiday. If Boris Yeltsin has serious problems with his health, in this event, the entourage of Boris Yeltsin will distance itself from him and will go over to Viktor Chernomyrdin."

Lapkov asks Belyayev to forecast the results of the first and second round of the presidential elections. Belyayev replies: "First, my forecast, unfortunately, is that neither of the presidential candidates will be able to win the desired 51 percent. Second, since the communist camp is orienting itself toward a consolidated candidate — at least we have such information, including from the press — I think that there will be a representative of the communists, they will determine their position, and then there will be our candidate, Boris Nikolayevich, and he will win."

In response to a question on the form he thought Boris Nikolayevich's presidential campaign would take, Belyayev states that the president's campaign would be better and more effective than the Russia Is Our Home campaign because the president would have more forces at his disposal. He says he is not involved in the presidential campaign yet, but he did not think it would be like a Western-style presidential campaign.

"I think that it will not be beneficial for the president to play the anti-communist card. I think that other arguments should be used here. I think that this question will arise again at a certain stage in the campaign because a real threat will arise of communists in parliament not just undermining all the laws for developing reforms, but undermining, unbalancing the country's economy. They are also capable, should they win, of changing the state structure, of turning the country back. I think that this card will be used — not an anti-communist card, but an anti-communist party card."

Lapkov clarifies the point: "You mean, not against the communists, but against communism as an ideology?" Belyayev replies: "Of course. But not that even, because probably no one in the world is fighting ideology because there are completely different systems in the world community in actual fact. People no longer fight for ideology. It seems to be that there is not so much a struggle against anti-communism as such, as against the distorted ideas that communists have today. That is all."

"If we can begin to sort out the questions arising about savers who have been conned, that is a real victory for the president," Belyayev adds.

Belyayev states that it was not advisable for the Russia Is Our Home movement to become a party on the eve of the presidential elections. "We want to strengthen our executive structure, engage in setting up in a real way a regional network of our executive committees and in transforming them in the future into a party network," Belyayev continues. He said every micro-district should have its own party functionaries who would work with specific people and receive from them the impetus for the movement to form its own character and adopt the necessary laws. Belyayev agrees with Lapkov that after the presidential elections the movement should become, at last, the party of power and "power is needed to make decisions and to implement them," Belyayev concludes.

Russia: 'Fear' Said Driving Yeltsin Into Elections

MM0902151096 Moscow PRAVDA ROSSII in Russian 8 Feb 96 p 1

[Article by Viktor Trushkov: "In the Narrow Corridor of Fears. Does the President Have Much Room To Maneuver Before the Elections?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Take a look at the thinkers behind Russian "democracy" — not the politicians, but the real moneychangers. Such as G. Burbulis, who has returned to the public eye, and Ye. Gaydar, who is never out of it. The one majestically tiresome, the other self-importantly smacking his lips, they have both proposed one and the same deal. They have each urged B. Yeltsin to exchange his unquenchable thirst for power for the still more enticing thirst for glory. In order to pull off this deal, the president should decline to put forward his candidacy in June's election, accompanying this handsome gesture with a statement that he is ceding the field of power to liberals absolutely untainted by totalitarian tendencies.

The proposed deal actually appears tempting at first sight — for Boris Nikolayevich. After all, S. Alekseyev, S. Kovalev, O. Latsis, Ye. Gaydar, and others have already made a similar exchange. In place of the illusory power of being members of the long inactive Presidential Council they have achieved, if not an illusory popularity, at least a persistent reminder of their names, which were becoming rapidly forgotten, on highly politicized television programs. But they exchanged clearly make-believe power for idle talk of dubious value. And after all, here we are talking about the "guarantor of the Constitution."

The occupation of moneychanger is usually highly profitable. In proposing this deal, Burbulis and Gaydar were also primarily concerned with their own profit. Moreover, they are trying to palm off B. Yeltsin with a dead mare that has just been pumped full of air round the corner, according to the old gypsy trick. The foul air of glory will rapidly escape from the mare, but the liberals' proceeds from the deal in the form of power for their class will, they calculate, remain, and therefore their prosperity will remain intact as well. Five months before the presidential elections they and their ilk have recalled that they have sometimes scorned the valuable advice of Ostap Bender [petty swindler from Ilf and Petrov's novels] — to respect the Criminal Code. And hence they are prepared to exchange their recent idol — unless all this is a crafty propaganda exercise aimed at restoring the image of B. Yeltsin, who also swapped his former charisma as a leader of men for the dubious notoriety of an executioner — for someone less odious and therefore more attractive. But the current president, I think, sometimes also sees the Russian Federation Criminal Code in his dreams.

Political and economic crime entangles this regime like the coil of barbed wire around the Russian House of Soviets in September-October 1993. The regime is surrounded by a coil of fear. And if someone like Chubays incautiously disturbs it under the pressure of evidence, all his political colleagues will find themselves in its clawing embrace. This is so obvious that you wonder who these pacts to exchange power for glory are aimed at.

Since only infamy is possible, B. Yeltsin, even if at heart he really wanted to do so, will not refuse to run for a second term. And if he does take it into his head to refuse, they will not let him. It is no accident that as many as seven action groups are engaged in rival collections of a million signatures in support of Boris Nikolayevich. No so much so that he should notice and appreciate the initiators, as to make sure that he does not take it into his head to show an initiative of his own on this matter.

It seems that they are needlessly concerned: He will show no such initiative. Those who have been intimately acquainted with him assure us that at every stage of the way he had one consuming passion — power. The rest is just petty urges. Moreover, Yeltsin has grown accustomed to never having to account for his actions, only to call others to account for theirs. Therefore the fact that he might be held responsible for having done violence to the USSR Constitution in force in August 1991, for the Belovezhskaya Forest pact, for the shelling of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and the flouting of the Russian Constitution, for fanning the flames of war on the territory of his own state, and so on and so forth, entirely rules out the possibility that B. Yeltsin will suddenly announce 15 February that he has decided against putting forward his candidacy for president. He simply has no choice. Incidentally, while taking care of himself, he will at the same time be protecting Burbulis and Gaydar.

But the narrow corridor in which Yeltsin is trapped has another wall — fear of not being elected. For the sake of overcoming this fear, the president is ready to make deals with any Mephistopheles. Through habit, as a populist, he snatches at the opposition's attractive social slogans and, having had his fingers burned, he chucks them aside, only to strain after them once again.

Finding himself in the narrow corridor of fears, the president "elected by the whole people" rushes to announce pension and grant increases, the prompt payment of wages.... How many different promises of this kind may lie ahead, seeing that there are still 130 days until the election. But the roses of promises have long and sharp thorns which immediately remind the president, no longer of inflation — he is ready to tolerate any inflation just to remain "master" in the Kremlin — but of the harsh terms of the International Monetary Fund. The IMF has already threatened that it could postpone a $9-billion loan which would be very handy for the Kremlin right before the election for the purpose of making symbolic additions to grants and pensions and handing out money owed in pay to miners, teachers, defense industry workers....

Indeed, even our own financial bigwigs look askance at the socialist promises of the ex-secretary of Moscow City CPSU Committee. But an election campaign cannot be held without these payoffs. Therefore, for every populist promise the people have to pledge loyalty to the course of inhuman reforms. No, the president will not leap from his narrow corridor into the broad field of socialist slogans: He is surrounded by his own barbed wire coil. Moreover, it is several rows deep — it stems from the IMF, from our own bankers, from politicians recalling the Russian Federation Criminal Code.... Large-scale maneuvers are not possible in this straitjacket.

He has even swapped A. Chubays for V. Kadannikov purely for the sake of creating the illusion of changes. It is not yet known to whom the initiative for this reshuffle really belongs. It cannot be ruled out that someone all-powerful recommended that the president withdraw Anatoliy Borisovich...to the reserve Main Command. After all, this has already happened once — with G. Yavlinskiy. The politician of the "500 Days of Semi-Disintegration" was also once a Russian vice premier. And he very much valued this post. He was with difficulty persuaded to leave the government in a huff. But now look in what high political esteem he is held: The presidential epaulettes are sticking out of his backpack. And the fact that Yeltsin has accused Chubays of being to blame for the fact that the bosses' party has failed to collect all the dividends that were due to it, is sham criticism. Russia Is Our Home is turning Red before our very eyes. But it is no longer possible for Yeltsin or Chernomyrdin — either separately or together — to pass themselves off as adherents of socialist values. They are capable only of turning a sham pink. Only who will believe them?!

Some whisperers are suggesting to the president that he should call off the elections, say, in honor of Child Protection Day. This is also frightening: You cannot go against the traditions of the West. And over there elections are a street-cleaning vehicle capable, so they think, of washing any amount of dirt, blood, or shame from a politician. Such a shower would be very timely.... Indeed, his own people would not allow him to call off the elections: Last year the number of strikes and strikers increased almost fifteenfold....

Fear is driving B. Yeltsin into the presidential elections. And if sometimes at night he dreams of a June victory, his anxiety only grows. All the well-known recipes for curbing the working people have already been tried — they are harried with poor quality imports, squeezed with nonpayments, and shot as hostages — now in the House of Soviets in the capital, now in a small Dagestani village.... People of vision are required. But instead of people of vision there are Burbulis and Gaydar harping on about exchanging power for glory.

Russia: Ultra-Nationalists To Back Zyuganov for President

LD1102131896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1258 GMT 11 Feb 96

[By Natalya Cherepanova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ST. PETERSBURG, February 11 (ITAR-TASS) — The congress of various parties and movements of nationalist and ultra-nationalist hues, which ended in St. Petersburg on Sunday, decided to back leader of the Russian Communist Party Gennadiy Zyuganov as a candidate for the Russian presidency.

His figure is suitable for most of these small groups, ranging from Russian National Unity and Memory to the Russian Imperial Alliance. The only vote against was cast by Eduard Limonov, the head of the National Bolshevik Party.

The congress recommended that nationalists should also cooperate with the Russian Communist Party in elections of St. Petersburg mayor.

Russia: Left-Wing Groups Unite Behind CPRF for Election

LD1202151096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 12 (INTERFAX) — The right to nominate the opposition candidate to the Russian president belongs to the Communist Party [of Russia — CPRF], which gained the largest support in the December parliament elections, reads the resolution of a closed-door meeting of leaders of various small communist and patriotic parties and movements.

A statement of the Union of Communist Parties-Soviet Communist Party received by INTERFAX Monday says the election program of the opposition candidate will include "restored Soviet power, abolition of presidency, and provision of social rights and guarantees to the working people."

If the opposition candidate wins the elections, he shall revive the former Soviet Union, stop armed conflicts on Russian territory and ensure national security, says the statement.

Leader of the Union of Communist Parties-Soviet Communist Party Oleg Shenin wants communist parties and movements to consolidate the opposition under the supervision of the Russian Communist Party and the Russian Communist Workers' Party.

The next meeting of the left-wing opposition will be held on February 24.

Russia: Gaydar Explains Recent Presidential Nominations

LD1202224896 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1725 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Report] The "Details" program carries a 9-minute interview with Yegor Gaydar, leader of Russia's Democratic Choice, by program host Nikolay Svanidze in Moscow. The date of the interview is not given. The program is devoted to Gaydar's recent nominations to the forthcoming presidential elections in Russia.

The program host Nikolay Svanidze recalls that Yegor Gaydar had nominated Nizhniy Novgorod governor Boris Nemtsov to the post of president and Yabloko leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy to the post of prime minister. Interviewed in a studio, Gaydar says that he has made his choice following a thorough analysis of the situation in the country. Asked whether he holds any consultations at all with Nemtsov, for example, prior to nominating him, Gaydar says that "naturally, I discussed this with Nemtsov and naturally, Nemtsov gave no consent in relation to this. I would like to stress once again: What is the point in seeking his consent when a democratic coalition has not been formed. Our conversation would have been more serious if such a coalition existed and was established."

Asked why he nominated the people who refuse to be a president or a prime minister, Gaydar says: "I am only proposing one of the possible schemes which can prevent the communists from coming to power. It is obvious that if we fail to come up with something unusual here, Mr. Zyuganov is as good as in the Kremlin already."

Svanidze says that neither Chernomyrdin nor Nemtsov were likely to go for the presidency. It is possible in theory but not in practice, he adds. Asked how Democratic Choice and Gaydar in particular would react to this in the run-up to the presidential elections, Gaydar says that "our main task, the task from which we proceed today and will proceed tomorrow, is to use everything possible to ensure that Nazi forces — and today's communists are, of course, Nazis, and they are Nazis to an even greater extent than they are communists — are prevented from coming to power. Therefore, all our future activities will aim at this task. We plan to hold a party meeting on 24th, probably, to decide on our tactics for the period. I think that we are likely to take the final decision on our position and on our support to this or that candidate much later, closer to the presidential elections, proceeding from events which will be taking place then and the situation at that time."

Russia: Nemtsov Declines Nomination; Comments on Chechnya

LD1202203996 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 12 Feb 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today Boris Nemtsov has informed the press secretary of the president about the fact that he does not intend to run in the presidential elections. At the same time Nemtsov assured him that he would support Boris Yeltsin if the latter decides to run for a second term. This report was received by INTERFAX directly from Sergey Medvedev, press secretary of the president. Our correspondent Nina Zvereva has taken from Boris Nemtsov an exclusive interview.

[Begin recording] [Zvereva] The "Vesti" question is this: What do you think has aroused Yeltsin's irritation, the irritation he expressed during the meeting of the Presidential Council.

[Nemtsov] You know it is hard for me to say what has caused the displeasure of Boris Nikolayevich. But that is not what is important. The important thing is that, in my view, the presidential team and the president personally are seriously studying the problem of a peaceful settlement in Chechnya. I believe that the fact that the Kremlin is now actively engaged in this testifies to a direct victory, not of Nemtsov, but of all those tens of thousands of Nizhniy Novgorod residents, and now millions of Russian citizens, who have put their signatures to the letter protesting against the war. Millions of people do not have to work out plans for peaceful settlements. This must be done by a state's leadership. However, I believe that citizens have the right to demand that the country's leaders bring order to their own country. I do not see any populism in this.

[Zvereva] Were you the first to hear about Yegor Gaydar's proposal putting you forward as a presidential candidate, or did he make his proposal directly to the democratically inclined public?

[Nemtsov] The thing is that I have never given my permission to Yegor Timurovich to put me forward as a presidential candidate. This is his personal initiative. He, indeed, is convinced that there is a need for a single democratic candidate. I agree with him about this entirely. As for the fact that his choice has fallen on me, I have given no such agreement. I will not be taking part in the presidential elections. [end recording]

Russia: Budget for Presidential Election Allocated

LD1202232196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1934 GMT 12 Feb 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 1.88 tln [trillion] rubles have been earmarked for the Central Electoral Commission (TSIK) to hold elections this year, 1.09 tln rubles of this sum for the presidential ballot in June.

According to Yevgeniy Kolyushin, a TSIK member, 65 bln [billion] rubles of the total have been set aside to elect State Duma deputies to replace those who have left the parliament's lower house, 56 bln rubles to hold local by-elections and run-off ballots, and a slightly over 87 bln rubles have been reserved for electoral commissions.

More than 500 bln rubles have been appropriated for a federal computerized election program GAS, close to 80 bln rubles have been allocated for a federal program, aimed to educate voters and election organizers on law matters.

TSIK has already registered almost 50 initiative groups, which have nominated candidates for the presidency, eight of them offer Boris Yeltsin for the office.

At its last meeting, TSIK discussed information on the breach of the procedure of raising signatures in support of candidates at railway transport enterprises. According to Yevgeniy Ishchenko, a TSIK member, TSIK decided to forward the materials on the illegal signature raising campaign to the Russian Prosecutor General's Office so that it would verify the facts and punish the culprits. TSIK plans to hear Railway Ministry representatives on this issue soon.

Meanwhile, the initiative group on the nomination of Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov for the

Russian presidency has raised about 1.4 mln [million] signatures in his support. Reporting that to INTERFAX, female cosmonaut Svetlana Savitskaya, an initiative group member, has explained such "active support from Russian citizens by their immense trust for the communist leader Zyuganov, a responsible and honest politician."

According to Savitskaya, the signatures have taken about a month to raise. The collection of signatures in Zyuganov's support will go on, she added, disagreeing with the view that "Zyuganov's electorate are basically pensioners." Among the signatories, she noted, there are very young people, who have never been "either YCL or CPSU members."

The leader of Russia's Democratic Choice (DVR) Yegor Gaydar has called for raising signatures in support of nominating Boris Nemtsov, governor of the Nizhniy Novgorod region, for Russian president.

Speaking at a conference of DVR's Moscow branch, Gaydar suggested that "Nemtsov's candidacy could rally movements of the democratic spectrum together." He also proposed that Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, leader of the Yabloko movement, be nominated "in pair" with Nemtsov for the office of Russian prime minister.

Gaydar regarded as "quite real" the chances of Nemtsov to win in a second round of the presidential ballot, if the Nizhniy Novgorod governor runs for the presidential elections.

However, Nemtsov informed the presidential spokesman Sergey Medvedev on Monday that he does not intend to run for the presidential elections in June and will back up the incumbent president Boris Yeltsin, if he decides to run for re-election.

Russia: Deputy Finance Minister Fired Over Unpaid Wages

MK1302104296 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by Olga Romanova: "Those Guilty of Nonpayment of Wages Found Out"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The name of the first person to be blamed for the nonpayment of wages and the people's social problems has been made public. On Saturday [10 February], the president instructed the government to remove from office Deputy Finance Minister Stanislav Korolev and "to decide within three days whether he is equal to his position." The deadline is today, but a high-level Finance Ministry official who characterized Mr. Korolev as a highly experienced and very decent person in charge of budget-funded organizations, as well as personnel and economic matters," advised that "in the ministry they expect that this decision is not final."

The Finance Ministry workers' expectations might not come true, however. With three months to serve before retiring on pension, Stanislav Korolev is an ideal figure for venting the presidential ire. A low-profile official, one of the finance minister's 12 deputies (three of them are first deputies), he went through all the stages of work in the ministry (RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Finance Ministry, USSR Finance Ministry, deputy finance minister) and had the misfortune to also work with the territories. In the opinion of an informed source in the Finance Ministry, it is from there that "someone has complained." An excuse was found — the question of Stanislav Korolev's removal is definitely linked to "his failure to act on the president's and the government's decisions aimed at enhancing measures of social protection in Russia," the president's Saturday directive says.

In the meantime, also on Saturday, presidential Chief of Staff Nikolay Yegorov found two more groups of culprits. Accused of nonpayment of wages were, first, the executive power heads, including regional ones (that is to say, those who offend against Mr. Korolev), aspiring to "unbounded independence, which has resulted in irresponsibility," and, second, the organizers of loans-for-shares auctions, who failed to contribute to the budget the planned amounts of privatization pickings (as little as 3.7 trillion rubles [R] instead of R9 trillion). Let me note that the 1995 budget after all received R5 trillion, whereas no one, perhaps, knows the size of the federal budget's debt in unpaid wages. Government officials have so far not arrived at a single opinion: They name figures ranging from R500 billion to R6 trillion.

The president is not likely to draw the line at the Saturday purge because social security would hardly improve noticeably with such decisions. There is no denying, however, that the president has picked the most innocuous line of conduct today.

Russia: Governor Nemtsov Details Meeting With Yeltsin

LD1202204696 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Feb 96

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Presenter Igor Gmyza] Boris Nemtsov, Nizhniy Novgorod governor, has attracted a good deal of attention recently. The analysts regard him as a politician of the new generation. His initiative to collect signatures for halting the war in Chechnya has received a controversial response in society. At a meeting of the Moscow section of the Democratic Choice of Russia movement yesterday, Yegor Gaydar, the movement's leader, proposed to nominate Boris Nemtsov as a presidential candidate. Today, with the help of our correspondent, Aleksandr Tsirulnikov, Boris Nemtsov is our guest. [passage omitted]

[Gmyza] Boris, is your decision final or is there something that could change your stand? What could make you agree to run for the post of president in these elections?

[Nemtsov] The only thing to make me ponder on whether I should take part in the elections could be such a situation when only two persons, [Gennadiy] Zyuganov and [Vladimir] Zhirinovskiy, would be nominated as presidential candidates.

[Gmyza] The president described your initiative [signatures against Chechen war] as populism since you had not put forward your own plan for solving the Chechen crisis. But after all does Governor Nemtsov have a solution to the Chechen problem?

[Nemtsov] In fact, at our meeting we discussed the details of a plan for peaceful settlement. These details included, among other things, the president's trip to the Chechen Republic, his meetings with elders and our servicemen who are in the Chechen Republic now. And the main idea which, I think, has not been rejected and has been included, perhaps, in one of the seven solutions put forward by the president says that, being the guarantor of the Constitution, rights and freedoms, the president should himself initiate the process of peace talks, and I believe that a process of peace talks blessed by the president can succeed and bring an end to the bloodshed.

Russia: Premier To Leave Sochi for Tuapse 13 Feb

LD1302113496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1034 GMT 13 Feb 96

[By Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 13 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is combining his regular leave in Sochi with brief working trips in the region. ITAR-TASS was told today by his Press Secretary Viktor Konnov that Chernomyrdin would leave Sochi for Tuapse on Tuesday afternoon, where he will overfly the construction track of the Lazarevskoye-Tuapse-Novomikhailovskiy gas pipeline. The Premier will return to Sochi on Wednesday after inspecting the construction site of the "Yamal" health-building centre, which is being put up by gas workers.

ITAR-TASS was told by a source within the government apparatus that Chernomyrdin was planning to end his holidays in the middle of this week, probably on Wednesday evening or on Thursday morning. He will then return to Moscow.

The same source said that Russo-French intergovernmental talks would be held on Thursday [15 February] during French Prime Minister Alain Juppe's visit to Moscow. Enlarged-format talks will be held at "President Hotel" here on Friday, as well as the first session of the Intergovernmental Chernomyrdin-Juppe Commission. It was learned that an agreement to set up such a body, similar to the Russo-American Intergovernmental Chernomyrdin-Gore Commission, was reached during talks between the Russian and French Presidents in the course of Boris Yeltsin's latest visit to France.

Chernomyrdin will meet French businessmen, accompanying Juppe's delegation, at "President Hotel" here on Friday.

The sides are expected to sign on the same day a Russo-French Intergovernmental Agreement and to hold a press conference at "President Hotel".

Russia: Filatov Voices Support for Vatican Ambassador

LD1202184196 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 12 Feb 96

[Report by Marianna Maksimovskaya; from the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] It is quite likely that the president decided to discuss with Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov the resignation of Vyacheslav Kostikov, Russia's ambassador to the Vatican.

Let us remind you that Kostikov's resignation announcement was prompted by the Kremlin's annoyance over the excerpts published in the press from Kostikov's book of reminiscences about the work of Yeltsin's press secretary. In his book "Farewell to the President" [Proshchaniye s prezidentom], which is ready for publication, Kostikov warned Boris Yeltsin against possible deviation from democracy. Kostikov's words cost him his resignation. [passage omitted]

It has become known that Kostikov sent a letter to the president on 10 February saying why he had acted as he did. However, according to Sergey Filatov, former head of the presidential administration, that letter is not at all an attempt by Kostikov to hold on to his present post. Filatov said that after sending the letter, Kostikov immediately left for Rome to pack his suitcases to return home.

In an interview with our correspondent, Filatov expressed complete support for Kostikov's position. In the opinion of Filatov, the strict truth which Kostikov told the president, is a manifestation of the true civic position of a man who, by his public utterances, is striving to correct the policy that is being carried out.

Russia: Ilyukhin: Yeltsin Policy Producing 'Unique Criminal State'

LD1202143996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 12 (INTERFAX) — State Duma Security Committee Chairman Viktor Ilyukhin, (Communist Party), said at a news conference in parliament Monday [12 February] that the president's and government's economic policy has resulted in full legalization of criminal capital.

This policy is setting up what Ilyukhin called a unique criminal state which will dominate all structures, in particular state authorities, he told INTERFAX and Moscow Echo radio.

President Boris Yeltsin as the guarantor of the constitution must bear responsibility for the ill-fated privatization and for failing to support numerous proposals advanced by parliament such as imposing a state of emergency in Groznyy and certain other parts of the Chechen Republic, Ilyukhin believes.

"The president is either misinformed or he is out of touch with what is going on in Russia," he said.

Ilyukhin believes that the impeachment procedure could take more time and effort than the presidential race and so should not be even started in the run up to the elections.

On the other hand, he believes that Russia can learn from South Korea, where a former president was brought to criminal justice for crimes committed 20 years ago. Ilyukhin called on those in power now to remember that the time of reckoning will inevitably come.

Russia: Belyayev Discusses NDR's Role in Duma

MM1202160796 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Feb 96 pp 3-4

[Interview with "Russia Is Our Home" Duma faction leader Sergey Belyayev by Mikhail Gurevich; place and date not given: "Gogol in the Duma. 'Russia Is Our Home' Duma Faction Leader Sergey Belyayev Is Always Optimistic — He Has a Green Lamp Without an Inventory Number as a Talisman Against Upheavals"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

In 'Our Home,' in Our Duma

[Gurevich] What feelings did you have on leaving the office of the chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property [GKI]? After all, you had given so many years to the economy. Or was it a challenge to try your hand in big-time politics?

[Belyayev] Yes, I devoted many years to the economy — and what years they were! During the reform, when it was like being on the front line for three years, it was both romantic, risky, and, basically, tough. But, on the other hand, there is plenty of risk in the Duma as well, and I realize that I can be of use here for the cause which I have worked for all these years.

[Gurevich] You are a master of sport in orienteering and chairman of that sport's Russian federation. What guidelines can you discern for yourself in your new position?

[Belyayev] There are a few. The first is not to upset the state. The sloganeering and cheap populism common to very many people — especially against the backdrop of the presidential election campaign — could lead our country to destruction. Another guideline for me is to further pursue the reforms and bring them to completion in this country. And I would stress that it is not just economic reform that is being implemented. We are simply reforming our country. Our society....

[Gurevich] Our consciousness. Our way of life. Our mentality....

[Belyayev] ...rights which we have never used and never even knew about have appeared. It is this aspect of the reforms that is being discussed. Their completion is our main guideline.

[Gurevich] How does the "Russia Is Our Home" [NDR] faction feel in the Duma? You have four committees.

[Belyayev] I want to dispel yet again the claims by certain "observers" that the NDR has not obtained any important committees. Undoubtedly, the committees for Defense, for Ownership, for Nationalities Policy, and for Local Self-Government are some of the most important. All four of the committees headed by NDR representatives have a common characteristic — the utmost constructiveness in their work, a lack of populism, and a more detailed, in-depth study of issues before they are submitted for debate in the Duma. We are already seeing some very constructive work done by the Committee for Local Self-Government Issues chaired by Andrey Polyakov. He is a very experienced man — professionalism is what distinguishes representatives of our faction.

Look — Polyakov was chairman of the Moscow Oblast Soviet and deputy head of the Moscow Oblast Administration. Who knows better than he how to solve self-government issues or build cooperation between the federal and local authorities? And he has already managed to consolidate the position of committee members from various factions on certain issues. Approximately the same can be said of the Committee for Defense (led by General Lev Rokhlin) and of the Committee for Nationalities' Affairs. It is understandable that Vladimir Zorin [chairman of the Committee for Nationalities' Affairs], who worked for a long time in the Soviet republics and used even to be a deputy to the Uzbek Supreme Soviet, has encountered a lot of nationalities problems. He has now spent 11 months working in Chechnya as one of the leaders of the Federal Territorial Administration. That, you will agree, is a major schooling. And, finally, the Committee for Ownership. This is perhaps where most issues could arise, since in the very first few days the Duma organized a commission to study and analyze the progress of privatization. So the restrained stance of Prof. Pavel Bunich, a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences, and his prestige and undoubted professionalism are very appropriate.

A restrained and professional attitude toward the examination of issues also distinguishes our faction. For instance, we proposed that people should not go mad and set up numerous special Duma commissions to check into this and that. There are committees already in place. And problems should be examined within their framework. No, such a position does not suit the current parliamentary majority. You get the impression that they have a different task — to shake up the situation and to try to build socialism yet again in this agitated and disturbed society.

[Gurevich] Yes, probably many people want to build not socialism but simply a career. A career based on constant criticism and high-profile "exposes."

[Belyayev] Of course. Just look at the composition of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] faction. Are there any entrepreneurs in it? Are there any plant directors who have long been joint-stock company presidents? Perhaps the CPRF members are not involved in any joint ventures at the moment? Are they all just disinterested proletarians, socialists, and communists? We must not close our eyes to this.

There Will Be Such a Party!

[Gurevich] How did the NDR movement come about? In April last year President Yeltsin announced that it was necessary to create two powerful structures — one right-of-center and one left-of-center — in order to avoid extremes. The left-of-center movement did not work out, but the NDR did. What are its prospects in the country? What needs to be done to ensure that the NDR becomes part of the two-party system that is traditional in many democracies?

[Belyayev] Unfortunately, the idea of the two-party system has not yet come about in Russia: The left-of-center ground is occupied — there is the CPRF (the party is indeed radical but presents itself as social democratic), and the Congress of Russian Communities and many other smaller parties gravitate there as well. So it was not Ivan Rybkin's fault that he failed — it was an objective reality. Just as it is an objective reality that the NDR won 10 percent — not 5, not 20, but 10.

Now to turn to our prospects. The movement has demonstrated its might (and 10 percent is proof of that) and could grow into a party. It has a base — in regional executive committee branches. We have been frequently rebuked for building our structures along administrative lines. Yes, in certain regions this has happened. And these are precisely the areas where the NDR has failed completely. But where enthusiasts have emerged to build up executive committees and movement councils on a voluntary basis we have met with relative success. So we are now avoiding the slightest hint of bureaucratic administration in building our regional structures, and we will be relying solely on public forces. This is currently being promoted by the holding of meetings with constituents by our deputies.

Six months ago I said at our congress that the NDR's arrival in the Duma would be the main driving force behind the party's creation. The combination of a network of public meetings and executive committees around the country will be the basis for the development of a party.

[Gurevich] In four months' time we will be choosing the Russian president. So it is natural for me to ask (although I probably know the answer) whom the NDR will be supporting.

[Belyayev] We do not tend to differentiate between Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin for a number of reasons both of a personal nature and because of statements by the premier that he "does not play these games." If Boris Nikolayevich puts his name forward, then Viktor Stepanovich will ask the movement — it is impossible to order it — to support him. But let's wait for Boris Nikolayevich's final decision 15 February — although, quite honestly, I have no doubts either. And the movement's support will be reflected not only in the signature-collection campaign, but also in its participation in the electoral marathon. Using all possible ways and means built up by the NDR.

The fact that Chernomyrdin may have been nominated as a presidential candidate in some areas (St. Petersburg, for instance) is no tragedy. This means that we have support and, using these structures at local level, we will be able to persuade people of the need for a single candidate — which is what Chernomyrdin will be advocating.

[Gurevich] Do we not have too simplified a concept of democracy? Isn't it strange that an academician, a general, and the premier have just one vote — the same as bums or drunks who have ruined their lives? So why should we allow them to decide the country's fate?

[Belyayev] I am against dividing society into academicians and drunks. And then, bums and drunks are a minority of society. And they often don't vote.

[Gurevich] But remember how Mavrodi [president of failed fraudulent finance company MMM] was elected in Mytishchi — he handed out more promissory notes and beat the 10 other candidates by a tiny percentage under our law.

[Belyayev] I agree. I can tell you my view of our singe-stage system, when someone who wins a relative but not an absolute majority is elected deputy. The campaign should definitely be tougher and there should be a second round. And the NDR faction will make every effort to ensure that the next parliamentary elections are held under a changed system — with a second round.

As for Mavrodi — I am prepared to assure you that it was by no means bums and drunks who voted for him. The fact is that there are now very many disoriented people in society who are prepared to grab anything going. To make a quick buck by speculating in notorious "pyramid schemes." So, sadly, this rot has set in within society, because the state has not demonstrated any realistic alternative. The state rapidly liberalized the system but was unable to monitor some of its parameters. When wages are not paid, workers are sent on unpaid leave, and plants stand idle because retooling is under way, then many people look for other earnings, and this desire to make a fast buck has resulted in disaster for millions of people. People are bought by Mavrodi's promises, although in theory such "buying" is a breach of the law. But you yourself have said that few voters voted for him. So, fortunately, not all of society has been infected by this "speculation."

You Cannot Get Far Hitched to the Past

[Gurevich] The start of the Duma's work coincided with the resignation of Anatoliy Chubays, with whom you worked side by side for quite some time. I read in some newspaper that "Belyayev reacted angrily" to the Chubays issue.

[Belyayev] Yes, I indeed regret Chubays's resignation. For several years we had a normal working relationship. During my time in St. Petersburg we concluded a unique agreement, and it was greatly to Chubays' credit that he allowed St. Petersburg to resolve many issues autonomously without having to check with Moscow every second. So my reaction is understandable. And Chernomyrdin too expressed regret about Chubays's departure. But the arrival of Vladimir Kadannikov will not mark a change of policy, because Kadannikov is a believer in market forces. He is a practical man of the market. He realizes where privatization is going and where the sources of revenue and sources for replenishing the budget lie. And he has a grasp of the macrostructure.

[Gurevich] You yourself hail from St. Petersburg and were formerly vice mayor of the city. Why has Sobchak spoken out so strongly against Stroyev?

[Belyayev] It seems to me that Sobchak simply doesn't know Stroyev. I know Stroyev better. When I was chairman of the GKI I visited Orel and familiarized myself in considerable detail with the situation in the oblast and the position of its leader. We had frequent contacts during the election campaign. I know that he is a man geared to reform, to private ownership, and to market mechanisms. Sobchak simply doesn't know this. He latched onto Stroyev's Central Committee past and started brandishing it. And, of course, he failed to meet with any support. Because in the short period that reform has been under way we have all changed a very great deal. And when people recall someone's communist past, it just makes me laugh. Chernomyrdin worked in the Central Committee as well. So what? When you recall someone's past, you have to look and see what Stroyev did in the Central Committee and what issues he was in charge of. What subject he did his scientific work on. And, in general, what the attitude to him is in Orel Oblast. And what decisions he has carried out. How he is resolving land reform — and this is an agricultural oblast. What his attitude is to privatization — there are almost no state enterprises there any more. So the Federation Council did not back Sobchak — we cannot always be harking back to the illusions of 1991.

This is an amazing time — for us 1992 has already become the past! Everything is changing so rapidly — lives, people, and philosophy. But constantly living on recollections about the past and arguments along the lines of "what if..." — who needs that?

The Green Lamp

[Gurevich] You were in the hot seat as GKI boss, but the Duma is even hotter. Our deputies are always on show, and you're already being snapped by hidden cameras — as if you were Madonna or something. How are you finding your new job?

[Belyayev] It's a hot seat — that's for sure. I never dodged the press when I was at the GKI, but parliamentary journalists have different standards. You have to get used to it, of course, but when, for instance, people are photographed in areas where photography is forbidden — I find that offensive. But in general I sympathize with journalists and I respect their work. If there is sometimes a misunderstanding between us, it will only be temporary. Ultimately, we are all learning things in this life — and that applies to me and to your journalist colleagues.

[Gurevich] You've got a picture of Gogol in your office. Why is that?

[Belyayev] The portrait of Gogol and the view of the Petropavlovsk Fortress just behind you are from St. Petersburg. It is a 19th-century portrait bought at a Sotheby's auction. It was given to me by my friend Kirill Smirnov, president of "Astrobank," shortly before his death. He asked me to always hang it in my office, wherever I was working. He probably thought that the subject of "Dead Souls" was somehow appropriate for the GKI.

The picture of Petropavlovsk (my apartment is nearby, incidentally) was given to me by Natalya Leonidovna Dementyeva, director of the Petropavlovsk Fortress Museum and Heritage Park. When I helped push through the decree granting it museum and heritage park status, she sent me the picture in the Smolnyy — again with the request that I should always keep it with me.

I have one other souvenir from my St. Petersburg days with me in the office — the green lamp on my desk. It used to be on the desk of the first secretary of the Krasnogvardeyskiy party rayon committee. He was my main rival in the election for chairman of the rayon soviet. Then the August putsch happened, and he asked me "What should I do?" I told him: "Don't get involved in this adventure. It's unconstitutional." And the day after the putsch he phoned me, thanked me for my advice, and gave me as a memento this lamp — the only object in his office without an inventory number on it. So I keep it with me as a reminder that unconstitutional adventures always backfire on the people behind them. [Belyayev ends]

P.S. While Sergey Belyayev's interview was being prepared for the press a session of the NDR movement's political council was held which nominated the NDR's candidate for Russian president — Boris Yeltsin.

Russia: Panel Voices 'Alarm' at Human Rights Situation

MM1202125696 Moscow EKSPRESS-KHRONIKA in Russian 9 Feb 96 p 1

[Unattributed account of report by the Commission on Human Rights Under the Russian Federation President: "Human Rights in Russia: A Step Backward" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having examined the materials at its disposal, the Commission on Human Rights Under the Russian Federation President is compelled to state that the human rights compliance situation in the Russian Federation in 1994-1995 remained extremely unsatisfactory.

The Commission notes that, in terms of human rights and freedoms, the Russian Federation Constitution remains to a considerable extent a declarative document, not a working law. The development of human rights legislation is slow and inconsistent.

The economic position of the population and, correspondingly, the actual level of safeguarding of citizens' socioeconomic rights are continuing to deteriorate in connection with the profound economic crisis.

But the Commission is particularly concerned by the fact that in many areas in the field of people's civil and political rights and freedoms there have manifestly been retreats from democratic gains which can no longer be justified by either factors of an economic nature or other difficulties of the transition period.

Society is witnessing an increase in phenomena posing a direct threat to human rights and freedoms and civil peace — the only conditions under which they can be realized. The Commission considers it necessary to note in particular:

1. The intensification of the militarization of society, expressed in the spread of official and unofficial armed and paramilitary formations and power structures with a vaguely defined function, purpose, or jurisdiction.

The sphere of special services' activity and powers is broadening, and a return to the Soviet model (is discernible), with no civil supervision of them and secrecy surrounding budget expenditure on maintaining them.

2. The escalation of strong-arm methods in resolving domestic issues, which testifies to the violation of one

of the principles of the Treaty of Social Accord — the preclusion of the possibility of resolving problems which arise through violence in any form whatsoever. The events in the Chechen Republic have become the bloody apogee of this trend.

The use in the Chechen Republic of means of armed struggle outside of a strict legal framework has resulted in mass violations of human rights and humanitarian law by both sides. Russia has repeatedly been the initiator of more detailed and tough regulation of internal armed conflicts in international humanitarian law and insisted on recognition of the argument that violations of human rights are not just the internal affair of a given country. In fact the Russian Federation has now crudely retreated from the principles which it itself initiated.

3. The exacerbation of the problem of racial and ethnic intolerance: manifestations of discrimination, including from high-ranking officials.

Fascist ideas are freely disseminated, and extremist organizations with their own paramilitary structures and publications are being organized and are operating. Political and ethnic extremism is not being properly assessed or actively resisted by state structures called upon to stop such phenomena through the force of law.

4. The problem of safeguarding the rights of ethnic minorities and indigenous small peoples of Russia is becoming increasingly acute. Despite some measures to prepare a normative infrastructure and special programs the actual situation of the peoples of the North, the Far East, and Siberia is continuing to deteriorate, their numbers are shrinking, and there is an emerging danger that some small ethnic groups will disappear.

5. The situation in penitentiary institutions, the Armed Forces, and other Russian Federation troop formations is worsening. Loopholes have appeared in the statutory regulation of servicemen's rights when performing their duties in various kinds of emergency situation, particularly in armed conflicts of an international and noninternational kind.

6. Provisions of the Constitution, international norms, and the law on freedom of movement and choice of place of residence are being ignored. In a number of regions the permit system of registration (residence permits) is being made more rigorous, and attempts are being made to introduce criminal responsibility for violating residence permits, an institution which has been officially abolished. Restriction of the right to freedom of choice of place of residence entails violations of suffrage and of the right to work, medical services, education, acquisition of property, and so forth. The surviving institution of residence permits is being used as a mechanism for discriminating against minorities.

7. Migration is continuing to increase primarily as a result of internal armed conflicts. The rights of refugees and displaced persons are not being safeguarded in practice, and the social adaptation of refugees and displaced persons is in fact being made more difficult. A balanced migration policy is not being implemented.

8. The lack of transparency of state structures, the intensification of information secrecy surrounding them, and the limitation of the right of freedom of speech and access to current and archive information on the pretext of protecting state secrets.

The Commission notes with particular concern instances of the spread of disinformation by official, including government, sources.

A process of the authorities' informational self-isolation from society is taking place.

9. On the pretext of combating crime there has been a predominant tendency to broaden the powers of power structures and law enforcement agencies to the detriment of constitutional rights and guarantees of civil rights.

The number of violations of human rights in the criminal justice sphere is growing. It is indicative that in 1994 over 20,000 internal affairs organ staffers were punished under disciplinary procedures for breaking the law when carrying out investigations or interrogations, but there are grounds for believing that this only reflects to a small extent the actual scale of violations. There was an almost 100 percent increase in the number of people who had criminal proceedings instituted against them for the illegal arrest or use of violence against suspects or witnesses, the falsification of case materials, and so forth.

10. The process of creating and strengthening the national system of state human rights protection bodies has been halted. Some of the structures operating in this field have ceased to exist.

Most provisions of judicial reform have not been implemented, and laws contravening the concept of judicial reform are being adopted. The existing judicial system is in a critical state, and the nonadoption of effective measures to implement judicial reform could lead in the very near future to the de facto cessation of the administration of justice in the country.

The Commission draws attention to the fact that in 1993-1995 there were clearly perceptible trends in Russia's state development which do not coincide in the human rights sphere with the promotion of democracy and a rule-of-law social state.

Rapid bureaucratization of the state apparatus and a rift between it and society are taking place, and officials' sphere of discretion is broadening, even in matters of the realization of citizens' constitutional rights. Attempts at the monitoring of state organs' activity by society meet with resistance and remain unsuccessful.

In Russian domestic politics political expediency is taking precedence increasingly often over fundamental principles of the law, respect for people's rights and dignity, and even the interests of citizens' life and security.

The Commission reemphasize once again that the discernible trends and phenomena are incompatible with the principles embedded in the Russian Constitution and international statutory acts on human rights to which Russia is party. This instills profound alarm in the Commission.

Russia: Security Council Personnel Changes Reported

MM1202160296 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Feb 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Official"]

[FBIS Translated Text] By edict of the Russian Federation President in accordance with Article 83 of the Russian Federation Constitution the following have been removed as permanent members of the Russian Federation Security Council:

Ivan Petrovich Rybkin and Vladimir Filippovich Shumeyko.

Russian Federation Presidential Edicts No. 23 and No. 22 of 10 January 1995 "On I.P. Rybkin" and "On V.F. Shumeyko" respectively have been deemed invalid.

Vyacheslav Ivanovich Trubnikov, director of the Russian Federation Foreign Intelligence Service, has been approved as a member of the Russian Federation Security Council.

Russia: Premier Signs Directive Protecting Domestic Producers

MM1302111596 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Feb 96 p 3

[Russian Federation Government directive No. 132, signed by Premier V. Chernomyrdin in Moscow on 2 February 1996, under the heading "Russian Commodity Producers Given Chance for Revenge. Will They Use It To Beat Their Foreign Competitors?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With a view to safeguarding the interests of Russian commodity producers, stabilizing the work of the industrial complex, and safeguarding national economic security:

1. The Russian State Committee for Industrial Policy, in conjunction with the Russian Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Ministry of Fuel and Energy, the Russian State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry, the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy, the Russian Federation Committee for Machine Building, the Russian State Committee for Statistics, and other interested ministries and departments, shall submit to the Russian Federation Government Commission for Protection Measures in Foreign Trade:

within three months — proposals on the introduction of temporary protection measures against goods imported onto Russian Federation customs territory and inflicting substantial damage on Russian commodity producers of similar or directly competing goods;

on the basis of the results of 1996 — a report on the effectiveness of the temporary protection measures against the import of goods, and proposals to abolish or toughen them.

2. The Russian Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Ministry of Finance, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the Russian State Committee for Industrial Policy, and the Russian State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry, in conjunction with interested ministries and departments, shall elaborate and ratify a statute on the procedure for acquiring imported equipment (production lines, machinery, and mechanisms) using federal budget funds.

3. Federal executive organs and Russian Federation component executive organs shall be instructed, when setting the terms of tenders (auctions) for the prospecting and development of deposits of minerals, to envisage the utilization of technology and equipment manufactured and developed by Russian commodity producers.

4. The Russian Ministry of Science and Technology Policy, the Russian Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Ministry of Finance, the Russian State Committee for Industrial Policy, and the Russian Federation Committee for Patents and Trademarks shall determine the form of state support for the patenting of Russian developments abroad, and shall also draw up and ratify a statute on the procedure for selecting developments suitable for patenting abroad. On issues requiring decisions by the Russian Federation Government, proposals shall be submitted under the established procedure.

5. The Russian State Committee for Industrial Policy, the Russian Ministry of Finance, and the Russian Ministry of the Economy, in conjunction with interested ministries and departments, shall submit proposals to the Russian Federation Government within three months on state support for Russian commodity producers acquiring patents from Russian scientific organizations, as well as licenses for the production of modern types of equipment and production lines, and certification that enterprises' equipment and quality control systems meet recognized international standards.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government

[Dated] Moscow, 2 February 1996
No. 132

Media Issues

Russia: Medvedev Reportedly Closes Kremlin Gates to NTV

LD1202181996 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 12 Feb 96

[From the "Segodnya" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The NTV television company, the first, and so far the only, independent nationwide news service, has been in existence for only three years. Over that time, attempts have been made to close it down three times and we've come under fire a countless number of times. The result of that undeclared war for objective information: two of our staff members killed and four injured.

The first time NTV was closed down was in December 1994. Reports from Chechnya spoiled the information picture from the Kremlin. The second time that they tried to write us off was in July 1995. The Kremlin bosses suddenly recognized themselves in our program, Kukly.

They are trying to remove us from the Kremlin hill today for the third time. The press service of the president — and it is headed by Sergey Medvedev, a man whom we are now obliged to call nothing other than our former colleague — has informed the television company that henceforth, the Savior's, Borovitskiye, and all the other gates of the presidential citadel are closed to correspondents of NTV.

As is usual in our country, nobody is saying why we are being punished. A possible reason for this is the interview with Vyacheslav Kostikov, former press secretary of the president and now likely also former ambassador of Russia to the Holy See.

One of the president's most devoted officials allowed himself to say some sincere words. Kostikov wanted to save Yeltsin, dreamed of coming to his aid at the most critical time for the president. But he did not take into account how many other bodyguards Boris Yeltsin has. The ideal of these devoted lads is for Yeltsin to be in a mausoleum of power where nobody touches him and where he doesn't hear anything.

But if God grants some men power, he probably deprives them of wisdom.

We understand what journalistic ethics are. We understand that every game has its rule. But when are our backs are against the wall, there is nothing else for us to do but to show once again that we play an honest but tough game.

Hindrance by state or public officials of the legitimate activities of journalists, forcing them to disseminate or not to disseminate information is a criminal liability — this quote comes from the law on the press. In the present situation, it does not sound like a preelection slogan. It sounds more like an epitaph.

Vladimir Luskanov, NTV television company.

Russia: Medvedev Denies NTV Barred From Kremlin

LD1302102296 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0854 GMT 13 Feb 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 13 Feb (ITAR-TASS) — Sergey Medvedev, press secretary to the president of Russia, told journalists today that he was surprised by the information from the NTV television company alleging that "the gates of the Kremlin were closed" to it. Commenting on the report broadcast in NTV news bulletins on Monday that journalists of the television company were not allowed in to events involving the Russian president, Sergey Medvedev stressed that no one has denied NTV journalists access to the Kremlin.

There are various degrees of access for journalists to all different kinds of events involving the head of state. The number of journalists frequently changes as does their identity. The sensitive reaction of the leaders and journalists of the NTV television company to the fact that their film crews were unable to attend one or two events seems very strange.

Sergey Medvedev said that none of the heads of NTV or the journalist preparing material exposing plans by the press secretary with regard to NTV had found the time to approach him. In his view, it looked like "another advertising campaign for their own television campaign." "It is altogether regrettable if NTV has decided to use such methods to expand it audience," said Sergey Medvedev.

Military Issues

Russia: Government Approves 1996 Defense Order

MK1302125596 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Feb 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Russian Federation Government Approves 1996 Defense Order"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Government has approved a defense order for 1996 that takes into account a new, long-range armaments program to the year 2005, drawn up by the Defense Ministry and Goskomoboronprom [State Committee on Defense Sector Industries]. This was announced yesterday by First Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets. In his words, the long-term armaments program will soon be submitted for approval to the Russian president. Mr. Soskovets also noted that the government has tasked the Finance Ministry with providing advance payments for up to 20 percent of defense-order work during the quarterly distribution of funds in accordance with the 1996 federal budget.

Russia: Kokoshin Seeks Changes to 1996 Draft Budget

MM1202155396 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Feb 96 p 1

["Own information" report: "Questions of Defense and Security Funding Demand Emergency Measures"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Andrey Kokoshin, Russian Federation first deputy minister of defense, addressed a Russian Federation Government session held 9 February to discuss the draft federal law submitted by the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance on making changes to the Federal Law on the Federal Budget for 1996.

Kokoshin emphasized that a very acute state of affairs has taken shape with regard to funding the Armed Forces and the defense order for industry. It requires the government to take large-scale measures without delay. Kokoshin supported, inter alia, a proposal by Army General Anatoliy Kulikov, minister of internal affairs, who called for a special emergency government session to be convened to resolve questions of funding for the needs of law enforcement organs and defense and to take a series of additional measures to swell the revenue part of the budget.

At its closed session 9 February the government presidium adopted the state defense order for 1996. It has been prepared in accordance with the draft long-term Armament Program, which is now being examined by the government before being submitted to the president and the Security Council for a final decision.

Russia: Defense Industry Chairman Pak Interviewed

MM0902144396 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Feb 96 p 2

[Interview with Zinoviy Pak, chairman of State Committee for Defense Sectors of Industry, by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valentina Alekseyeva for IZVESTIYA; place and date not given: "Zinoviy Pak, Man of Russia. New Chairman of State Committee for Defense Sectors of Industry Talks About His Program"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Zinoviy Petrovich Pak, the recently appointed chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Defense Sectors of Industry, held his first press conference in Moscow on Thursday [8 February]. The day before he gave an interview specially for our newspaper. Zinoviy Pak was previously general director of the "Soyuz" Federal Center for Dual-Purpose Technologies (Lyubertsy). He is a doctor of chemical sciences and academician of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences.

[Alekseyeva] Zinoviy Petrovich, what is your opinion of the situation in defense sectors of industry?

[Pak] I think that it is no secret to anyone today that things in the defense sector are by no means at their best. The secret is how to rectify the situation.

[Alekseyeva] Do you have your own program for extricating the defense industry from this situation?

[Pak] If I did not, if I had no firm ideas or clear notion of how to do so, I would not have agreed to take up this post.

[Alekseyeva] What is the crux of your program?

[Pak] It is a question of the approach to the implementation of this program rather than to areas or sections of the program.

The issues of whether Russia has a military doctrine and whether it has a suitable arms development program are supremely important for everyone — defense enterprises, the Finance Ministry, the Defense Ministry, the Ministry of the Economy, and the state as a whole. Those are the fundamentals without which it is hard to see which enterprises need to be preserved (and to which output they should be oriented) and which should be completely converted to civilian production.

Everyone knew this, everyone has talked interminably about this and been completely unable to secure mutual understanding, make up their minds specifically, and start moving. Every department probably had its own interests and ambitions.

The first thing that we managed to achieve by way of consolidation on this issue was nonetheless to reach agreement 26 January with the Defense Ministry and the Ministry of the Economy, sign the first submission on the arms program, and submit it to the government the next day.

It stipulates very clearly that the arms development program will be regularly adjusted without fail. First, with an eye to the reorganization of the Army, which must become considerably smaller but better armed. What is more, modifications are needed in connection with changes in the socioeconomic situation in Russia.

[Alekseyeva] With what areas do you plan to begin extricating the defense industry from crisis?

[Pak] First and foremost it is necessary to define the top-priority scientific and technical areas of the Russian defense industry since there is not enough money for all the requisite military orders. We must start with areas where Russia holds the lead and base our national defense around these priorities. And primarily maintain those enterprises that are better able than the others to ensure the organization of this defense. Unless we do that today, tomorrow we will have to use other states' scientific developments and ultimately end up dependent on them.

We have concluded that first and foremost it is necessary to also maintain those defense technologies that are dual purpose. On the one hand, they are fundamental to the defense industry (that is an indispensable condition) and, on the other, civilian output that is competitive on the world market can be manufactured using these technologies. That is the way to resolve both the problems of security and the economy.

But one should not forget that there are technologies whose existence must be guaranteed in order to ensure the country's security. I stress that these are national technologies. During wholesale conversion many of them have been lost and many others are "on their last legs."

Undoubtedly, preserving and developing these technologies will be of tremendous benefit to the civilian sector of the Russian economy. For instance, military orders at the firm with which I joined this combine represent between 20 and 25 percent. While civilian output alone makes up the rest. But there are areas of that output in which we occupy key world positions. And if the state appreciates and maintains these areas Russian industry will only strengthen its positions on the world markets.

[Alekseyeva] But how can we ensure that enterprises do not collapse once and for all?

[Pak] I think that there is no other option than to amalgamate into major diversified structures that concentrate all business resources together, in a single center — natural and intellectual resources, machinery, and finance. All this is based on a number of technologically linked ideas. This is essential in order to speed up the development of new output and immediately deliver it to the customer. That is all business is. Once you have developed the output, people take it away from you. The faster they do so, the greater the gain. That is why we believe that financial-industrial groups are the thing of the future. When Boris Nikolayevich visited our firm, I wanted to talk as much as possible during those two hours about my enterprise's problems. But I did nonetheless deem it necessary to invite another director to deliver a report and he suggested setting up a big structure, the prototype of a financial-industrial group, which resulted in our setting up the "Kompomash" Corporation. It comprises banks, institutes, and a production unit. That is the only way to go now.

[Alekseyeva] How do you view foreign investment in the defense industry?

[Pak] I see it as one of the most promising means of developing both the military and civilian sector in defense sectors of industry.

[Alekseyeva] People say that you are "Yeltsin's man." Could you be frank and tell us whether that is true?

[Pak] Like President Yeltsin I am a man of Russia. Although this is a fairly difficult subject when it comes to citizens of the former USSR. After all, you realize that it is hard to tear a man to pieces. I was born and educated in Ukraine, today I kind of formally work in another state. But what I do and have done with my colleagues is not just the property of one firm or the State Committee for Defense Sectors of Industry.. These developments are currently being appreciatively used by Germany, Australia, etc. Thus the scale of this activity is expanding somewhat.

As for Yeltsin I have never dabbled in politics. I accept Yeltsin as president and I work with him as president. As far as I understand it, he is also trying to help me as chairman of the committee and not as Zinoviy Pak. That is we are pooling our efforts to resolve general state problems.

Federal Assembly

Russia: Primakov Remarks to Duma Committee Reported

MM1202154596 Moscow TRUD in Russian 12 Feb 96 p 4

[Report by Aleksandr Yerastov: "Yevgeniy Primakov: 'Defending Russia's National Interests More Vigorously Than Before'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov appeared before the new Committee for International Affairs in the State Duma on the eve of his meeting in Helsinki with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Stressing the importance of close contacts between parliament and the Foreign Ministry, he outlined his vision of the present international situation and Russia's role in world politics.

The world has not become less complex because the Cold War has ended, Primakov said; new threats to the security of many states have emerged and new conflicts have come about. A crisis zone is now wedged in the center of Europe, threats connected with the possible proliferation of weapons of mass destruction have arisen, and international terrorism is raising its ugly head. In these conditions Russia must play a stabilizing role and prevent or limit the development of adverse trends on a global and regional level. And only a great and powerful state can do this. The minister stressed in this context that Russia must certainly protect its own national interests and that the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry intends to do this more vigorously than before.

Speaking about the processes of integration on the territory of the former USSR, Primakov described as "primitive" the assessments made of them by certain of our Western partners: Terms such as "Moscow's imperial ways," "backtracking on sovereignty in the republics," and so forth are in circulation. None of this corresponds to reality. There is an objective basis for the development of the processes of integration in the post-Soviet period: Nowhere in the world was there such a high level of ties as here.

The question of NATO expansion is another "thorn in the flesh" in our relations with the West: "We cannot thump the table now, objecting against a particular country wishing to join NATO," Primakov said. "But we do not wish to ignore our own interests and will not do so." And Russia's interests, in the minister's opinion, mean that NATO should not expand or move its military infrastructure closer to our borders.

The Russian minister stressed that the option offered by the West does not suit Russia: Let us concentrate on other questions now, take a time-out, and then return to NATO expansion. In other words, we will not rush things today but will do what we want tomorrow, anyway. Our proposal, Primakov said, is different: Let us use the time to find solutions which take account of both the Central European countries' concerns and Russia's interests.

Russia: Ilyukhin: Those Sending Capital Abroad Face Penalties

LD1202150396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 12 (INTERFAX) — About $200 billion worth of Russian capital is located abroad, head of the Duma Security Committee and member of the Russian Communist Party faction Viktor Ilyukhin told a news conference at the Duma Monday.

He said the committee had made its priority several laws on Russian economic security, including a draft law on amnesty for persons who exported their capital but informed the authorities about this within 100-150 days and ensured the possibility of returning the capital. "If the capital cannot be returned, it should work for Russia abroad," stressed Ilyukhin.

Those who refuse to do so will face a term of imprisonment under a new article in the Criminal Code, said the official.

Russia: Duma To Hear Soskovets Report on Election HQ

LD1202145996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 12 (INTERFAX) — Russian parliament's lower chamber, the State Duma, plans to listen to a report by First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets on the presidential elections headquarters he heads. The report is expected to be delivered Friday [16 February] as part of the Duma's "government hour" from 4 p.m. through 6 p.m., Duma speaker Gennadiy Seleznev told correspondents Monday [12 February].

He hopes Soskovets will be able to come to the State Duma despite his busy schedule as acting prime minister while prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is on vacation. (The Duma has invited Soskovets three times to attend its meeting — IF).

Seleznev thinks the prime minister will soon suspend his vacation at the instruction of President Boris Yeltsin in order to supervise the Chechen settlement.

On the same day the Duma plans to listen to a government report on Russian oil exports via Ukraine.

The Duma meeting Friday will be chaired by first Duma deputy speaker Aleksandr Shokhin, as Seleznev will be in St. Petersburg to attend a meeting of the Commonwealth Interparliamentary Assembly.

Russia: Duma on Transdniester Negotiations

LD0902153996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 9 (INTERFAX) — The Russian State Duma thinks that representatives of the breakaway Transdnestrian state must take part in international talks on the status of the region.

"Participation of Transdnestrian plenipotentiary representatives in the international talks on the status of the Transdnestrian region shall be the obligatory condition of Russian participation in the aforesaid talks," says a Duma resolution of Friday "On the Appeal of the President and the Parliament of the Transdnestr Moldovan Republic."

The document, initiated by Duma deputy speaker Sergey Baburin (the People's Power group) and deputies Igor Bratishchev (the Communist Party faction), Andrian Puzanovsky (the agrarian group) and others, was supported by 301 deputies. Four voted against, and none abstained.

The Duma recognized the "stabilizing role" of the Russian Defense Ministry troops (the former 14th army) stationed in Transdnestr, and recommended that the Russian Government ensure their timely financing and status.

The president was recommended to "take immediate measures to open a Russian consular office in the Transdnestrian capital of Tiraspol and take into account the opinion of the Transdnestrian people in negotiations with Moldova to outline the Transdnestrian status."

The presidents of Russia, Moldova and Ukraine signed a joint statement at a Commonwealth summit on January 19 to take on the obligation "to boost coordination and signing of a document on the special status of Transdnestr as an integral part of indivisible and territorially integral Moldova. These measures will be taken within the framework of the settlement talks mechanism."

Russia: Assassination Attempted Against Zhirinovskiy Deputy

LD1202232396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2127 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 12 (INTERFAX) — Russian State Duma deputy and Deputy Chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) Aleksandr Vengerovskiy was rushed to the Central Clinical Hospital after an assassination attempt on his life tonight, well-informed sources told INTERFAX.

Vengerovskiy was fired at three times near his house in Protochny Pereulok, central Moscow, at around 7:00 p.m. [1600 GMT] Monday, the same sources said.

A municipal ambulance diagnosed a tangential wound in the knee. However, an ambulance from the "Kremlin" Central Clinical Hospital took him to that hospital. Doctors say the wound is not dangerous and Vengerovskiy will soon be discharged.

After receiving a report on the assassination attempt, an officer of the Moscow City Law Enforcement Department enacted a plan entitled Interception-Center which has not thus far brought results.

Vengerovskiy often walked his dog, a poodle, near his house, an INTERFAX correspondent learnt. The assassination attempt was launched precisely when the MP was walking his dog.

Besides Vengerovskiy, the house is also home to former State Duma chairman Ivan Rybkin, presidential aide Yuriy Baturin, Deputy Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission Aleksandr Ivanchenko, Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov, Federal Border Guard Service Director Andrey Nikolayev and other high-ranking officials.

LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy told INTERFAX last Saturday that Vengerovskiy was likely to run for the mayoral elections in Moscow in June as an LDPR candidate.

Russia: Yeltsin's Representatives to Federal Assembly Appointed

MM1302100496 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 13 Feb 96 p 1

[Unattributed report from "The President" column: "On the President's Plenipotentiary Representatives in the Federal Assembly Chambers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Boris Yeltsin has signed an Edict "On the Plenipotentiary Representatives of the Russian Federation President in the Chambers of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly." With a view to ensuring collaboration between the Russian Federation president and the chambers of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly, the post of plenipotentiary representative of the Russian Federation president in the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council and the post of plenipotentiary representative of the Russian Federation president in the State Duma have been introduced as part of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff.

Anatoliy Sliva has been appointed plenipotentiary representative of the Russian Federation president in the Federation Council. Aleksandr Kotenkov has been appointed plenipotentiary representative of the Russian Federation president in the State Duma.

Russia: Federation Council Committee Chairmen Appointed

MM1302112396 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Feb 96 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Official"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council has ratified [the appointments of]:

Vladimir Mikhaylovich Platonov as chairman of the Federation Council Committee for Constitutional Legislation and Judicial and Legal Issues;

Vladimir Aleksandrovich Torlopov as chairman of the Federation Council Committee for Social Policy;
Viktor Vasilyevich Derevyanko as chairman of the Federation Council Commission for Standing Orders and Parliamentary Procedures.

Regional Affairs

Russia: Yeltsin Visit to Yekaterinburg Previewed

MM1302122996 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 13 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by correspondent Vladimir Stakheyev: "Visit in Preparation. People of Urals Support Fellow Countryman"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yekaterinburg — It is 20 years since there was such a wonderful winter in the Urals! This year, throughout the whole of January and half of February, there has been a turquoise sky above Yekaterinburg, the sun is blinding, and round about there is deep snow. And it is doubtless significant that the Russian president's home country is greeting him with such magnificent weather.

Boris Nikolayevich has not been to the Urals for several years. But his bond with Yekaterinburg and with his fellow people of Sverdlovsk, from where the future president started on his way to big politics, has always been very strong. A sense of mutual support is constantly felt by him as head of state and his fellow countrymen. In this connection let us recall the 25 April 1993 referendum on confidence in the president. On that occasion the mid-Urals, along with Moscow and St. Petersburg, tipped the scales decisively in the expression of confidence in Boris Nikolayevich. Furthermore, in the anxious days of the events of August 1991 the "reserve government" headed by Oleg Lobov was located near Yekaterinburg.

Now too a crucial moment has come in the career and indeed the personal future of the Russian president. Boris Nikolayevich has decided to announce his consent to run as a candidate in Russia's main elections right here on his home territory, at a meeting with his fellow countrymen. After all, it is well known that being on home ground always helps. This decision is understandable and natural in human terms.

But of course, it was not only, indeed not chiefly, sentiments of nostalgia that prompted the country's president to make this visit. Sverdlovsk Oblast remains a model for Russia in many of the most important areas of reform. It is no accident, but an objective fact, that our mighty region was the first among such territories in the Russian Federation to sign a treaty, quite recently, on the demarcation of powers with the center. But the president and the people of the Urals assess this document's significance very highly. They see it first and foremost as a guarantee of the Federation's stability.

So how is this model of the country's present reforms developing: What have the people of the Urals managed to do in recent years, and how, in terms of switching the economy to new, market conditions and establishing external ties, and in the region's social life?

"I think," Vitaliy Mashkov, the president's representative in Sverdlovsk Oblast says, "that Boris Nikolayevich will not only gain a clear impression of the changes in the region in recent years, but will see for himself the blunders and omissions too. And maybe that will help him to make a personal decision that is very important for Russia's future...."

This, the main purpose of the visit, determines the program for the president's stay in Yekaterinburg. The program is, as always, very busy and substantive. In the morning Boris Nikolayevich will inspect the subway, whose construction he initiated, and meet with passengers and people of the Urals. He is even expected to travel a few stops with his fellow countrymen.

Then a meeting with the oblast leadership is planned. After that, he will talk with Ural regional newspaper editors at the House of the Press. The culmination of the president's stay in Yekaterinburg will be a meeting with the people of the Urals in the Youth Palace. It is here that Boris Nikolayevich intends to announce to his fellow countrymen and all Russians his decision: Will he take part in the presidential elections?

What will the president's decision — which can, without exaggeration, be called a historic decision for Russia — be? There is not long now to wait for the answer to that question.

Russia: Yeltsin Decrees Name Change for Republic of Kalmyk

LD1202163896 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1008 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—In view of the Republic of Kalmyk-Khalmg Tangch changing its name to Republic of Kalmyk, Russian President Boris Yeltsin has issued a decree on changing the name of the constituent part of the Russian Federation to Republic of Kalmyk in Article 65, Part 1 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the president's press service announced today.

The Russian president's administration has been instructed to change the new name of the constituent part of the Russian Federation in the next edition of the Russian Constitution.

The Russian president acted in line with Article 80, Part 2 and Article 137, Part 2 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the press service's release says.

Russia: Kabardino-Balkaria President on Federalism

MK1002114296 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Feb 96 p 1-2

[Interview with Valeriy Kokov, president of the Kabardino-Balkar Republic, by Petr Pliyev; place and date not given; "Valeriy Kokov: 'Federalism Is the Backbone of Russia.' The President of Kabardino-Balkaria, Deputy Chairman of the Federal Assembly's Federation Council, Is Most Concerned With Having Statehood Strengthened"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt]

[Pliyev] What are your duties at the Federation Council?

[Kokov] As a deputy chairman of the Federation Council, I will probably supervise the work of the committees for federation affairs, for security and defense issues, for agrarian policy, and for science and education.

Problems of the relations of Russian Federation components with the center and between themselves are more urgent today than ever before. Naturally, in my activity, I will be paying special attention to the normalization of these relations.

As a Federation Council member, I will do all I can so that the Federation Council gains proper standing within the state power system; and as an individual, a Russian citizen, and a leader of a Russian Federation component, I will stand up for the creation of a strong state, without which we will be unable to overcome our present crisis for a long time. Federalism is the backbone of Russia. It is its strengthening, the development of federate principles, and the strengthening of Russian statehood on which I will first work.

[Pliyev] How would you describe the situation in the Northern Caucasus? How, to your mind, can the Chechen crisis be resolved? Does the situation in Chechnya have an impact on the situation in the North Caucasian region, and in what way?

[Kokov] [passage omitted] Of course, what is happening in the Chechen Republic has an impact on the situation in the region, and everybody knows this. This includes Budennovsk, Kizlyar, Pervomayskoye. When there is a war nearby, nobody feels good. It is sufficient just to mention the psychological stresses of people, to say nothing of other aspects, well-known to everybody, such as economic and social [aspects] and so forth.

Naturally, the Chechen crisis is not easy to resolve. I can only say that the solution needs to be sought within the framework of maintaining the integrity of our Fatherland and the Russian Federation Constitution. The present Constitution of the Russian Federation, despite everything said about it, provides grounds for the authorities to solve all the problems.

[Pliyev] There are people who propose that the administrative structure of the Russian state be unified. What is your attitude to this idea?

[Kokov] If you are speaking about economic and cultural integration, about the restoration and broadening of economic ties which existed for a long time, I fully support this. You, however, have in mind quite a different thing. Despite all the affinity of the peoples living in the Northern Caucasus, they differ in many respects, such as mentality, temperament, and, possibly, culture. It is impossible to enter the same water in a flowing river twice, and, likewise, the course of history cannot be reversed. A similar artificial unification of peoples of the Northern Caucasus into one Highland Republic [Gorskaya respublika] already took place in 1918, but this republic fell apart on its own.

Unfortunately, we have the bitter experience of the USSR, with its hasty declaration about the historic unity of peoples and one Soviet nation. The problem of the integration of nations and peoples is a process which has nothing to do with haste and revolutionary and forceful interventions.

Today, in my opinion, to make any amendments to the principles of building Russian federalism would mean to go back in our evolution in general and in the development of democracy in particular. The Russian Federation Constitution, together with agreements between Federation components and the center on the principles of power delimitation, allow for the realization of the interests of components within the Russian Federation to the full extent. Why seek anything better than what you already have?

[Pliyev] Many Cossack atamans are demanding now that they be given weapons and be sent to bring order to Chechnya. What do you think of this?

[Kokov] There are a lot of forces in the world, including political ones, which would like Russia to suffer the same fate as the USSR. For this, they are playing not only the Cossack, but also the nationalistic, religious, and other cards. There are many people who, under plausible excuses, would like to divide the single Russian nation into independent principalities (provinces [guberniya], republics...), to force their rules upon the Cossacks, non-Cossacks, and others. I doubt, however, that the Cossacks will swallow the bait. In any case, the Cossacks in Kabardino-Balkaria and in some other [Federation] components are not even talking about any weapons. There is no need to do this in the Chechen Republic at all: There are federal authorities and there are local authorities in the republic itself, and, to my mind, they are able to resolve this problem on their own. Any intervention, such as the one you mentioned, will only further aggravate the situation. [passage omitted]

[Pliyev] Is there a national policy in Russia?

[Kokov] It has always been the custom in Russia to pretend that there is no national problem. Events of the past several years have shown, however, that it is dangerous to drive this disease in any deeper. It has become obvious that this problem does exist and is very pressing, and there are plenty of examples of this.

There is no consistent, systemic national policy in this country, although some attempts to work out certain draft laws have already been made.

I wish to emphasize that a national policy should suit all components of the Russian Federation; provide solutions to national, social, and cultural problems of all ethnic groups in the country; and protect Russian people outside the country. This also answers your question as to why the work of the Nationalities' Ministry is largely ineffective. With all my respect for the heads of this ministry, I have to note that the policy being pursued is a regional, rather than a national one. There is the simple example of the Republic of Karachayevo-Cherkessia, where five indigenous ethnic groups live together. So, to solve the problems of culture, language, traditions, and so forth in a normal way, there should be all the attributes of, let us say, culture: five theaters, the same number of newspapers, etc. Textbooks for children should be published in these five languages. Can, then, a republic with such specific features be put under the same conditions as a monolinguistic oblast? It is these or similar problems, rather than any special privileges, that leaders and public organizations of national entities have in mind when they speak about differences between them and other components.

By resolving such issues, which may seem trifling at first glance, the federal authorities could eliminate many burning problems.

Moreover, should the Nationalities' Ministry set to work on them, its effectiveness, significance, and reputation could rise.

Russia: Dagestan Chief Requests Funds To Beef Up Security

LD1202144196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 12 (INTERFAX) — The authorities of Dagestan, a Russian republic in the North Caucasus, plan to ensure the safety of local residents by themselves but with additional allocations from the Russian federal budget, head of the Dagestan State Council Magomedali Magomedov told INTERFAX Monday.

He said the hostage-taking incident in Pervomaskoye, Dagestan, and tragic events which followed it have had a great effect on Dagestan residents. "The population is now ready to stand up for itself," said the official. Dagestan towns and settlements have formed volunteer units, which patrol the streets together with the police.

Magomedov did not exclude the possibility of more terrorist acts being carried out by gunmen led by Chechen rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev. "This could happen any day, either in Dagestan or in any other North Caucasian republic. Unfortunately, we were helpless in the face of terrorism," said the Dagestan leader.

Several days ago he addressed the Russian government and President Yeltsin with a request for additional allocations from the federal budget. The money will be used to reinforce local police units. He said this reinforcement will not require the involvement of federal interior units, the more so because such a federal measure would stir up local residents. "All we need is money, we have enough people here," stressed Magomedov.

Russia: Sverdlovsk Submits Foreign Trade Development Program

MM1202164196 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Feb 96 p 22

[Report by Anatoliy Kazantsev: "Yekaterinburg Increases Foreign Trade Turnover"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yekaterinburg — The Sverdlovsk Oblast Government's international and foreign economic relations department has held a presentation of its program for the development of foreign economic activity in 1996-1998.

Last year the oblast's foreign trade turnover grew by 3 percent and stood at 3.4 billion rubles [R]. The oblast's enterprises maintained foreign economic relations with 98 countries of the world. Its main trading partners were China, Germany, the Untied States, the Netherlands, and Kazakhstan. Among the largest participants in foreign economic activity were the "NTMK" and "Bogoslovskiy Aluminum Plant" Joint-Stock Societies, the Reftinskiy GRES [state regional electric power station], and others. Enterprises producing output directly for export contributed more than $150 million to the consolidated budget. The sum of the customs duties transferred into the federal budget from the oblast's territory is over $30 million. There is a U.S. consulate general and three U.S. centers, British and Hungarian trade missions, and a Mongolian Embassy mission operating in Yekaterinburg. The offices of 73 foreign firms and more than 10 noncommercial organizations offering financial, consultative, and educational aid operate in the city and oblast; more than 500 enterprises with foreign investments have been registered; and 27 banks in the oblast have received licenses to service participants in foreign economic activity. The Ural Export Academy is to be opened, and is recruiting students.

The newly presented program is open to additions and proposals from participants in foreign economic activity. A further growth in foreign trade turnover of approximately 3 percent is forecast through improving the investment climate in 1996. This will be significantly assisted by the Treaty on the Delimitation of Subjects of Jurisdiction and Powers Between the Organs of Russian Federation State Power and the Oblast Organs of State Power, signed at the end of last year.

Economic Issues

Russia: Ministry Seeks To Support Russian Producer

MM1302101696 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Feb 96 pp 1-2

[Report by Vladimir Kucherenko: "Economy Is Complex Orchestra. Who Is Hitting a False Note and Where? Priority Support for Russian Commodity Producers Was Main Issue at Government's 9 February Session"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Economy Minister Ye. Yasin noted that the recession slowed last year to 3 percent as opposed to 21 percent in 1994. But an iron law applied — things went best for those producers who were geared to the foreign market. For instance — the chemical and petrochemical sectors, the fuel industry, and ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy. It was exports that made it possible to build up output of diesel, rolled ferrous metals, mineral fertilizer, and the following items whose production is environmentally "unfriendly" — polyethylene, synthetic rubbers, and paper.

Most noteworthy was metallurgy. For instance, its ferrous "branch" boosted output in 1995 by 9 percent thanks to sales abroad.

But the Economy Ministry is noting that the structure of Russian industry continues to deteriorate. The proportion of mining and raw-material production facilities is increasing, whereas the proportion of processing and high-tech industry is declining. You will agree that the prospect of becoming a raw-materials supplier to the developed countries, a platform for environmentally harmful production facilities, or a sales market for foreign goods is not very appealing.

The picture in other sectors cannot fail to alarm us. Production fell by 4 percent in chemical and petroleum machine building, and output of trucks, tractors, and combine harvesters was down. Fewer steam turbines, mainline locomotives, rail cars, and computerized machine tools were manufactured.

Thus, there is a process whereby the raw-materials side of the economy is maturing, and the country could find itself firmly dependent on highly organized foreign industry and agriculture. But even a raw-materials country needs to maintain a resource base at a proper level — that is, sources of oil, gas, and ores. Yet prospecting work was down 14 percent last year, and since 1993 the increase in known reserves has remained lower than the annual extraction volume (with the exception of coal and iron). Prospecting for oil, gas, uranium, and precious metals was particularly down.

But how can we cure industry, what can we use as the "adrenaline" for our industrial "heart"? The Economy Ministry has proposed a range of measures which need to be taken in the first and second quarters of this year.

First and foremost, we need to protect the country from a surge of low-quality imports, in order to direct our own purchasers to support our own industry. After all, why does the trading system prefer to buy imported food? Because it is relatively cheap. But last year out of all the foreign goods checked, 27 percent of tea, 66 percent of brandy, 50 percent of fish, 39 percent of sausages and smoked foods, 33 percent of vegetable oil, and 37 percent of canned meat were rejected as substandard. Large consignments of French, Dutch, and Danish butter and margarine were sent back for having forged certificates.

Foreign governments are not only turning us into a dump for their garbage, but are also subsidizing those who are importing food into the Russian Federation. This is real price aggression targeted against Russian producers.

The Economy Ministry proposed that a government decree be drawn up on import quotas for products that are backed by subsidies from foreign states. To this end it will be necessary to set up a commission for protection measures in foreign trade. The commission will carry out investigations in cases where damage has been done to Russian industry. It will be necessary to institute precustoms inspections of the size and quality of imported products, and to draw up laws on the safety of foodstuffs and on independent expert consumer reviews, as well as a statute on the confiscation and destruction of low-quality raw materials and foodstuffs.

The second range of measures is to preserve sales markets in the CIS countries and to make progress in them. To this end it is necessary to draw up a mechanism for providing credit facilities for sales of goods and services from the Russian Federation in those countries, and to institute a unified procedure for levying taxes on exports of products to both the far abroad and the "new" abroad [the CIS states].

Third, the Economy Ministry has decided to attract citizens' savings to a number of efficient investment projects, to that end issuing federal industrial development loan bonds denominated in foreign currency. Since there are currently too many competitors on the loan bond market, it was proposed that regional authorities be forbidden to issue local bills used as a means of payment. There will also be a ban on the issue of financial instruments by various organizations without banking licenses.

Finally, in order to resolve the defaulting crisis that is undermining industry, it was promised that compulsory insurance be introduced for state contracts, along with a procedure for utilizing federal bills, and that a law be adopted on organizing trading to buy and sell goods and services for treasury needs. It is also planned to institute a system under which a shortfall of revenue to the budget would result in all of its items being cut equally.

But the main thing is to raise investment for modernizing enterprises and for developing their production.

According to Ye. Yasin, we now need to select several enterprises with products that are competitive in the world market, and support them up to and including direct treasury funding.

The discussion was summed up by First Vice Premier V. Kadannikov:

"Different sectors are in very different positions. We still have to study what impact protective import duties will have on our producers. After all, many may simply take advantage of them to raise their prices. We cannot close our market for long.

"Today investment usually means funding from the budget or investments by foreigners. But there is also an option of investing in the circulating capital of the most viable enterprises, which will both produce revenue for the budget and also develop their production independently. So I propose finalizing the Economy Ministry's proposals with the participation of sectoral ministries and directors of successful production facilities. Then these proposals will become specific rather than boiling down to the principle of 'all things to all men'...."

Russia: 60 Percent of Moscow Firms Broke Tax Law Last Year

MM1302085796 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Feb 96 p 19

[Report by Irina Nevinnaya: "It Is Hard to Pay Taxes, But Not Paying Can Cost You"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to figures from the Moscow Tax Service, six out of every 10 enterprises in Moscow violated tax legislation last year.

To be more accurate, breaches were recorded at six out of every 10 enterprises checked. And that is an average figure. Among certain groups of taxpayers the proportion of nonpaying organizations was even higher. Topping this "roll of honor" are insurance organizations — the proportion of violators among them reaches 72 percent. State and municipal enterprises are a near second — at 70 percent. Joint-stock companies where foreign partners have a shareholding are on the same level. It is against these enterprises that the tax inspectorate's efforts will be primarily directed. Given that in the structure of Moscow enterprises and organizations the proportion of insurance companies and banks continues to rise (there are currently 1,481 banks operating in Moscow, not counting subsidiaries and branches of out- of-town banks), the tax inspectors will have their work cut out.

Last year their efforts bore the following fruit. An additional 6,335 billion rubles [R] was collected in tax and financial sanctions in Moscow — 180 percent up on the 1994 level. The budget managed to recover 43.1 percent of this sum. On average, R368 million has been recovered from each enterprise which violated tax law. At the same time, the list of violators contains many enterprises whose debts run into tens of billions. We are not just talking about major industrial enterprises that have been "dragging their feet" — such as the "ZIL," the "AZLK," and so forth. One fined commercial bank alone had to pay an extra R44 billion, and a certain joint-stock company had to pay R40 billion and $1.3 million.

One very common type of violation last year, according to D. Chernik, chief of the State Tax Inspectorate for Moscow, was to distort the level of income tax paid by individuals. A nonstate pension fund was fined R2.7 billion on this point, and they had to pay an extra R1.1 billion to a military unit. Systematic checks into different taxes, including income tax on individuals, are an effective tool used by the capital's tax inspectorate.

Among the other means used for "working" with violators Chernik mentioned the recovery of arrears by applying them to debtors or to the property of the enterprises in arrears — although he added the rider that such measures are used cautiously and in individual cases. This year work in this direction will be continued, including the recovery of ruble debts from enterprises' foreign-exchange accounts.

Russia: New Law Moves Toward Ending Savings 'Free-for-All'

MM1202162996 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA ("Documents" Section) in Russian 10 Feb 96 p 10

[Article by Aleksandr Velichenkov under the "Postscript to a Document" rubric: "Spare a Thought for Investors"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Essentially what we have is a new law in a completely new version with an extremely complex past. [reference to 3 February 1996 Federal Law No. 17 "On Amendments and Additions to the RSFSR Law 'On Banks and Banking in the RSFSR'"]. The Russian Federation Federal Assembly approved it in July last year, but only now has the president signed it. When it was being drafted account was taken of all the "varied" experience of MMM, Khoper, and other "semi-bank" structures which actively attracted citizens' savings.

It seemed that this "no-man's land" was being monitored by the Central Bank, the Finance Ministry, and the State Committee for the Management of State Property. But it was a case of too many cooks spoiling the broth. As a result millions of citizens lost their savings.

Within the framework of this problem, the provisions of Article 1 and Article 41 are of fundamental significance — Article 1 places nonbank credit organizations under the law's jurisdiction, while Article 41 entrusts the monitoring of all types of credit organizations, both bank and nonbank, to the Central Bank.

Henceforth an investor has the right to expect any organization which seeks to attract the population's investments to hold a Central Bank of Russia license. If it does have such a license it is better not to invest your funds in such a "firm."

Of course, the Central Bank cannot immediately take all such organizations under its all-embracing control, but if, by our daily demands, we force all "deposit-takers" to observe the law, we will have less cause to worry about the safety of our own investments.

In this regard the law makes a considerable step forward when compared with its predecessor. Whereas the latter envisaged merely the need to insure citizens' deposits, which incidentally has not been universally enforced, Articles 38 and 39 of the new law impose more rigorous restrictions.

In the next three months the government and the Central Bank of Russia are to submit to the State Duma a draft law on compulsory insurance of citizens' deposits, which will regulate the operation of the Federal Fund for the Compulsory Insurance of Investments. In addition, the banks can independently set up voluntary investment insurance funds.

It is too early to say how the powers and functions of these funds will correlate and whether it will be possible for your investment to be insured twice. But it is already quite obvious that the time of the uncontrolled "free-for-all" in the population's savings market is disappearing forever.

Russia: Unemployment Totals May Reach 6 Million

MM1202155496 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Feb 96 p 1

[Unattributed report under the general headline "Miners, Teachers on Strike. Now Police Officers Go on Hunger Strike"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] By the end of 1997 the total number of unemployed will reach 6 million, or 8.3 percent of the country's economically active population. The Russian Federal Employment Service press service reported this yesterday to an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

According to the service's data, the total number of unemployed currently totals 5.7 million. Only 2 million of them are registered with the employment service. According to the forecast by Federal Employment Service specialists, in 1996 the total number of unemployed will increase to 5.8 million while the number of officially registered unemployed could reach 3.5 million.

Employment service specialists believe that, unlike the period 1991-1995, unemployment will gradually acquire a predominantly structural nature. In addition, reduced scope for independent job seeking will increase the number of citizen's applications to the state employment service. Therefore the proportion of officially registered unemployed to the total number of unemployed will increase to 50-70 percent depending on the region. [passage omitted]

Russia: Weekly Pay, Benefit Allocations for Feb Prescribed

MM1202102196 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA (Weekend Edition) in Russian 9 Feb 96 p 2

[Russian Federation Government Directive 144 dated Moscow, 6 February 1996 and signed by Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin, plus appendix]

[FBIS Translated Text] In fulfillment of Point 6 of Russian Federation Presidential Edict 66 of 19 January 1996 "On Measures To Ensure the Timely Payment of Wages Out of Budgets at All Levels, Pensions, and Other Social Payments":

1. The weekly schedule for the allocation of funds from the federal budget by the Russian Ministry of Finance for the payment of wages to employees of organizations in the budget sphere, pay and allowances to servicemen and internal affairs organ staffers, pensions, grants, benefits, and other social payments for February 1996 (hereafter called the schedule) is approved in accordance with the appendix.

2. For the purpose of ensuring the timely funding of wage payments from the budgets of the Russian Federation's components, the Russian Ministry of Finance is to allocate funds to the Russian Federation's components from the federal fund of financial support for the Russian Federation's components over and above the sums approved by the schedule but within the limits of the revenue coming into the federal budget in February 1996.

3. Federal organs of executive power are to ensure that the necessary documents for the transfer of budget funds are submitted to the Russian Ministry of Finance no later than one working day preceding the date for receipt of payment laid down in the schedule.

4. The Russian Ministry of Finance is to ensure the timely transfer of federal budget funds so as to finance expenditure in accordance with the schedule and ensure the weekly submission of information on the implementation of this schedule to the Russian Federation Government.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government.

Appendix to Russian Federation Government Directive 144 of 6 February 1996

Weekly schedule for the allocation of funds from the federal budget by the Russian Ministry of Finance for the payment of wages to employees of organizations in the budget sphere, pay and allowances to servicemen and internal affairs organ staffers, pensions, grants, benefits, and other social payments for February 1996 (billions of rubles):

[In the following table "a" represents "Week 1 — 1-4 February"; "b" represents "Week 2 — 5-11 February"; "c" represents "Week 3 — 12-18 February"; "d" represents "Week 4 — 19-25 February"; "e" represents "Week 5 — 26-29 February"; and "f" represents "Total for the month"]

Area of expenditure	a	b	c	d	e	f
1. State management	0	0	374	0	31	405
2. International activity	0	0	0	4	0	4
3. National defense	191	613	500	0	441	1,745
4. Law enforcement activity	160	500	386	0	419	1,465
5. Basic research and promotion of scientific and technical progress	0	0	0	480	0	480
6. Industry	23	18	0	0	75	116
7. Agriculture and fishing	0	0	0	45	0	45
8. Environmental protection	0	0	0	29	94	123
9. Transport, road management, and communications	0	19	0	0	0	19
10. Elimination of emergency situations	17	178	0	5	0	200
11. Education	0	0	698	0	0	698
12. Culture and art	0	0	34	0	0	34
13. Mass media	0	0	40	0	0	40
14. Health care and physical culture	0	0	212	0	0	212
15. Social policy	0	0	399	0	225	624
16. Other expenditure	0	0	0	0	126	126
17. Targeted budget funds	0	0	66	0	50	116
Total	391	1,328	2,709	563	1,461	6,452

Russia: Navy's Debt Soars as BSF Facilities Are Transferred

MM1202165996 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Feb 96 p 2

[Report by Vladimir Pasyakin: "Ukrainian Navy Has Been Living on Credit for a Long Time"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sevastopol electronic communications enterprise "Sevastopoltelekom" has disconnected all the telephones in the city belonging to Ukrainian Navy subunits, including the Ukrainian Navy headquarters, for nonpayment of debts. The 26 long-distance communications lines could also be disconnected. The Ukrainian Navy's debts to the city telephone company are over 1.5 billion karbovantsi....

However, the Ukrainian Navy's "telephone bill" is a drop in the ocean compared with its 13-billion debt to various medical institutions in the city for sailors' medical treatment and food. Consequently, as of 1 February the Sevastopol sanitation and epidemiology center suspended the work of specialists of the Ukrainian Navy's sanitation and epidemiology at the center's laboratories.

The Black Sea Fleet [BSF] is owed 42.479 billion karbovantsi for medical services for servicemen in hospitals, sick bays, and polyclinics. The debt for the lease of moorings is 3,273,900,000 karbovantsi. The arrears for the upkeep of the Ukrainian military prosecutor's office is 14,177,833,000 karbovantsi.... This is by no means the full list of the Ukrainian Navy's debts, which in turn have caused the Black Sea Fleet to get into debt.

As the Black Sea Fleet is reduced in size, so the Ukrainian Navy grows — with the result that expenditure is increasing too. Only recently the Ukrainian Navy acquired 10 ships and vessels from the Black Sea Fleet. Meanwhile, the enormous debts that have already built up suggest that Ukraine can hardly maintain what it already has. What will happen when the Ukrainian Navy takes over all the Black Sea Fleet ships, vessels, and shore infrastructure that it is due to inherit?

Russia: Defense Industry Chief Highlights Debt Problems

MM1302115896 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 10 Feb 96 p 1

[Account by Anatoliy Kondrashov of interview with Zinoviy Pak, chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry; date, place of interview not given: "Dual Technology or Two-Faced Policy?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The priority development of defense sectors and their saturation with the most modern technologies has largely predetermined the one-sidedness of our economy's development. The result is the uncompetitiveness in the world market of most products produced by civilian industry. But not everything is hunky-dory in the defense industry either. What awaits it now?

"Our enterprises," Zinoviy Pak, chairman of the Russian Federation Goskomoboronprom [Russian Federation State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry], believes, "are now in the same position as most plants. They are plagued by nonpayments. Wage arrears in the Russian defense complex exceed 1.5 trillion rubles [R]. The state's payment for the defense order is now the most important problem. Consequently in most cases conversion programs have not been implemented.

"Many problems have arisen because of the steady increase in prices of power sources and raw and other materials. Things are getting bizarre. For example, the 'Sibpribormash' state production association in Biysk has put highly profitable consumer goods into production: electric saws, power units, separators, and washing machines. To do this credits were taken out with the 'Altaykreditprombank' AKB [expansion unknown].

"But a sharp increase in the prices of power sources amounting to 67 percent of cost price put the collective in a dilemma: Is that sort of conversion really necessary? The point is that, when comparing the the amount the enterprise is unable to pay with the size of the state's debts to the enterprise, the state's debts, which have not been paid at the appointed time, are settled according to the Central Bank of Russia's fixed rates. But while the association's debt to the bank totals R280 million, it is owed twice as much for fulfilling state orders. And this sum is not about to be repaid. After all, 'Sibpribormash' has organized the production of civilian output on the basis of practically the same capacities and the same technologies, merely having modified them slightly."

Russian Federation Goskomoboronprom Chairman Pak believes that dual technologies will help military-industrial complex enterprises to get out of the protracted crisis with minimal losses.

"Their maximum effective utilization," he observed, "has just been considered by the Council for Scientific and Technical Policy Under the Russian Federation President. To do this it is not necessary to set up new production facilities or invest great financial resources.

The new leader of defense sectors has vast experience of utilizing dual technologies. Only recently Pak headed the "Soyuz" Federal Center for New Technologies. It was here that ecologically clean aerosol fire extinguishing systems which have received worldwide acclaim were developed.

And, getting down to work in his new post, he intends, besides effectively utilizing military-industrial complexes' potential, to carry out feasibility studies of the tasks being carried out by plants.

Russia: Federal Expenditures on Armed Forces

964F1012A Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 4, 1-7 Feb 96 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Two Trillion Rubles Spent on the Upkeep of Troops in Chechnya Over 10 Months—But Where Did It Come From?" and communication signed by V. Ulyanov, auditor of the Russian Federation Accounting Bureau, "To the Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If you recall, dear reader, a few days prior to the elections Prime Minister Chernomyrdin arrived late for a meeting of the Ministry of Defense Collegium. He arrived late, but wearily contented. Although detained, he stated, he had managed to resolve all the issues with respect to financing the Armed Forces. A grateful Defense Minister P.S.

Grachev solemnly promised on behalf of the forces entrusted to him that the Army would support the bloc Russia Is Our Home, and issued the appropriate instructions to his deputies, commanders in chief, and military district commanders.

Up to 50 percent of the vote was manipulated, but "official" requirements were met. While the obligations undertaken by Viktor Stepanovich, as you will see from the information that follows, turned out to be pre-election prattle. But it is a curious thing that we have trillions for waging the war in Chechnya (though it is entirely unclear where the money came from, if not allocated by the Ministry of Finance), while there are no funds to pay the wages, rations, or clothing allowances of military personnel. But not forever. If credits are borrowed from a commercial bank in proper fashion, the state can repay the money with all the appropriate interest. "Military shipments have become a very advantageous thing for merchants," Peter the Great noted in his time. The populism of Viktor Stepanovich and that of Boris Nikolayevich are looking more and more similar, while we are trying to find differences between them.

To the Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly

In accordance with your instructions, the Auditing Division for Monitoring Federal Budget Outlays on National Defense, Border Troops, and Customs Organs has conducted area-specific inspections which have established the following:

Outlays for construction and upkeep of the Armed Forces were approved by the Russian Federation Law on the Federal Budget for 1995 in the amount of R45.6044 trillion (not counting pensions and Ministry of Atomic Energy outlays). This is 35.5 percent of the R128.7000 trillion certified by the Russian Defense Ministry (taking into account the indebtedness of R7.8000 trillion as of 1 January 1995).

The draft Law on Introduction of Amendments to the Law "On the Federal Budget for 1995" envisages an additional allocation of R6.0006 trillion for upkeep of the Armed Forces, of which R3.7316 trillion will go to monetary allowances and wages, and R2.2690 trillion—to foodstuffs. In all, R51.6050 trillion has been approved for construction and upkeep of the Armed Forces for 1995.

As of 1 December 1995, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance has financed R38.4719 trillion, or 75 percent of the annual target, to these ends.

Of the R30.2403 trillion specified by the budget for upkeep of the Armed Forces for the first 11 months, R25.1922 trillion has been financed, or 83 percent of the annual target.

The amount of budget funds remaining for December—R5.0481 trillion—covers only 47 percent of the minimum requirements of the Armed Forces (R10.8521 trillion) through year's end.

The resulting shortage of budget funds will affect mainly the monetary allowances of military servicemen and the wages of civilian personnel.

Armed Forces personnel failed to receive timely payment of monetary allowances and wages throughout the course of the year. There were delays from one to three months.

Indebtedness in the payment of monetary allowances to military servicemen for the month of November of this year amounted to R796 billion.

The situation with respect to financing the food supply of the Russian Federation Armed Forces has become critical this year.

Budget-approved food appropriations in the amount of R1.7216 trillion will only cover eight months. Under such conditions the Ministry of Defense was compelled to resort to obtaining credits from commercial banks under guaranty of the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance. Thus, the first credits amounting to R200 billion were received from the commercial bank Menatep (at an annual interest rate of 60 percent). The Russian Finance Ministry repaid these credits to the bank in three months in the amount of R200 billion, the outlay being attributed to the "National Defense" section of the federal budget. At the same time, interest on these credits was transferred in the amount of R26.6 billion, attributable to food supply.

In all, the Defense Ministry obtained food-supply credits amounting to R1.0000 trillion (R4.000 billion from the commercial bank Vozrozhdeniye, and R6.000 billion from the commercial bank Menatep).

The situation with respect to financing arms purchases, military equipment purchases, and scientific research and experimental design projects is extremely unfavorable.

Of the R15.2112 trillion in budget appropriations approved for these purposes over the first 11 months of the year, only R10.0516 trillion, or 66 percent, has been financed.

In addition, over the course of the entire year the Ministry of Finance failed to allocate to the Defense Ministry appropriations for outlays related to the upkeep of forces in the Chechen Republic—which over a 10-month period have amounted to more than R2 trillion.

Proceeding from the information presented here, we may draw the conclusion that the declaration by Russian Federation Prime Minister V.S. Chernomyrdin on liquidation of the budget indebtedness of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense has not yet achieved fruition.

[Signed] V. Ulyanov, auditor of the Russian Federation Accounting Bureau

Russia: Grain Inspectorate Deplores Substandard Imports

LD1302124196 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 13 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by Nikolay Skorolupov: "Russia Is Not a Waste Pit. Coordinating Council Session"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An enlarged session of the Coordinating Council of the State Grain Inspectorate Under the Russian Federation Government [Roskhlebinspektsiya] was held in Moscow last week. Analyzing last year's results, its participants — leaders of Roskhlebinspektsiya regional administrations; government, Agriculture Ministry, and State Standards Committee apparatus officials; prominent academics; and staffers of other institutions and departments — voiced a considerable number of constructive purposes to improve the Inspectorate's activity and strengthen its material and technical infrastructure.

The participants, first and foremost Chief State Grain Inspector of Russia Igor Chekmezov, who presented the keynote report, spoke with alarm about the fact that our country has been swamped with low-quality grain products in recent years. It has sometimes seemed that overseas and Western businessmen have decided to sell their slow-moving stock on the old principle "It's no good to us, so you have it." Thus, more than 40 percent of the wheat received from the United States did not meet the contract because it was contaminated with magnetic metal (!). In November-December last year more than 100,000 tonnes of wheat from Poland and the United States had a low gluten content making it unsuitable for baking standard quality bread. Thousands of tonnes of low-quality flour infested with grain pests were dispatched by our neighbors — Kazakhstan and Ukraine. To Roskhlebinspektsiya's credit, its experts imposed severe sanctions on the foreign benefactors, proving once again that Russia is not a dumping ground for any old waste.

"Things aren't what they used to be, and no mistake," said Lyubov Didenko, who heads the grain inspectorate in North Ossetia. "Southern Russia and the Lower Volga region used to be world-famous for their excellent strong and durum wheat grain. But that fame is former glory. We are on the threshold of spring. The warmth of the 'February glimpses' of the spring to come instills joy in our hearts. We should be mobilizing all equipment to chemically treat the fields, not wasting a day. The grain crop and its quality depend on this. More than half the field area is infested with shield bugs, you see."

The Coordinating Council session was addressed by Russian Government Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha.

Through the joint efforts of the Coordinating Council specific measures were defined to step up Roskhlebinspektsiya's monitoring and expert works. Giving all possible assistance to rural commodity producers remains the main task of the Inspectorate's central apparatus and regional administrations. The forms of assistance vary.

International Affairs

Ukraine: 'Nonviolent' Protests Planned for Yeltsin Visit

*LD1202225996 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian
1945 GMT 12 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The Ukrainian National Assembly [UNA] today discussed preparations for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Ukraine.

The head of the UNA political department, Anatoliy Lupynis, criticized plans to sign a large-scale political treaty with Russia. "There is nobody in Moscow we could sign this treaty with. The situation there is unstable," he said.

UNA Deputy Leader Dmytro Korchynskyy said all protest actions will be nonviolent and kept within Ukraine's constitutional framework. One of the actions planned is to block the two presidents' passage down the road from Borispol [airport] to Kiev.

Ukraine: Kuchma, Officials Prepare for Visit to U.S.

*LD1202224396 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1934 GMT 12 Feb 96*

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Anna Kovaleva, Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Boris Yunanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Leonid Kuchma met Deputy Prime Minister for the Economy Roman Shpek and Vice Foreign Minister Anton Buteyko to discuss what was being done to clear the ground for his formal visit to the United States due on February 22, a presidential source told Interfax.

Several cabinet ministers are due to leave for Washington on Monday to set the scene for Kuchma's visit there.

The Ukrainian team will meet World Bank officials to discuss the prospects of cooperation between Ukraine and that financial organization as well as the country's financial reform in a bid to get an international loan for economic restructuring.

The source said that political and economic issues would dominate the agenda of meetings Shpek and head of the state property committee Yuriy Yekhanurov were to hold with US Assistant Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, Assistant Treasury Secretary David Lipton and other US officials.

The source does not rule out the US officials may want to hear a coherent answer on the course of the constitutional process in Ukraine because bilateral relations were in need of a solid legal groundwork. The Americans may also want to know how Kiev wants to push through a new constitution to be able to assess the ability of government branches for concerted effort and the degree of general stability in Ukraine, he believes.

In breach of the constitutional deal between the president and legislators, the Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU) has continued a signature collecting campaign in favor of a referendum on the basic provisions of the new constitution. It has collected about 1.2 million signatures out of the three million needed to call a nationwide poll, according to Interfax.

IF Note: Senior party officials and Communist MPs issued a statement in parliament on February 6 saying they started a signature collecting campaign for a referendum on the key provisions of the new constitutions. This includes questions on the public's attitude to a socialist bias in the country's development; overhauling the Ukrainian presidency; state symbols and the status of other languages; and a voluntary union by peoples of independent states of the former Soviet Union.

However, the constitutional deal Kuchma and the legislators struck on June 8, 1995 bans any constitutional referendums apart from a poll on the agreed draft of the new basic law.

The communist-led campaign is under way in the face of a refusal by the central electoral commission to register pressure groups for signature collection and criticism by other public groups.

Kuchma's press office in a recent statement spoke of an increasing number of appeals to the president by public groups and individuals criticizing the Communists for their "destructive activity."

Ukraine: Diplomat Praises Relations With Iran

WS1302072096 Kiev VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 2 Feb 96 p 3

[Interview with Borys Humenyuk, head of the international organizations and diplomatic service department of the International Relations Institute at Kiev University, by Elina Nesterenko; place and date not given: "When They Hear About Ukraine, Iranians Excitedly Exclaim: 'Oh, Kiev!...'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An average inhabitant of our country knows, unfortunately, little about Iran as a Ukrainian partner. Meanwhile, both states are very interested in cooperation. For example, Iranian oil could supplement, if not replace, oil from Russia. There are many other promising fields for cooperation.

In mid-January this year, a seminar was held in Teheran, Iran, devoted to issues concerning foreign politics and security of Central Asian and Caucasian countries. The seminar was attended by a delegation from Ukraine. A KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI correspondent met with on of its members, Professor Borys Humenyuk, who is head of the international organizations and diplomatic service department of the International Relations Institute at Kiev University, and soon will be appointed to the position of rector of the newly created Diplomatic Academy within the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry.

[Nesterenko] Why do you think it was Ukraine that became a participant in that forum?

[Humenyuk] Formally, we received an official invitation. Generally speaking, if you recall the history of Ukraine's statehood, Iran was one of the first states that established diplomatic relations with our country — in 1992. Our embassy in Teheran is headed by Ivan Maydan, an experienced diplomat and a man who earned immense authority in Iranian Government circles.

The overall development of Ukrainian-Iranian relations is on the upturn. First, we are geopolitical neighbors. Second, our problems with energy sources spur Ukrainian diplomats to work in the Iranian direction. We have recently concluded a trilateral agreement with Turkmenistan and Iran on exports of Turkmen gas and, in the future, Iranian oil. There are, however, all sorts of technical problems. Iran is interested in our civilian airplanes; already some 1,000 Ukrainian specialists work on contract in that country, and the demand for them is growing. We have a well-established exchange of students. In the future, I would like to see more Iranian young people in our institute, particularly because Farsi is taught in Ukraine and every condition was created to train skilled foreign political specialists. In general, the prospects for bilateral partnership are quite promising.

[Nesterenko] Could you say more about the seminar?

[Humenyuk] It was sponsored by the Iranian Foreign Ministry, and speaking precisely, by the Institute of Political and International studies (IPIS) at the Foreign Ministry. In my opinion, this is a quite powerful research institution which devises the tactics and strategy of the country's foreign policy. The institute also organizes a great deal of conferences and seminars to discuss issues that could influence the crafting of the foreign political course and result in some corrections of it. About 100 participants from 21 countries were invited to participate in the seminar — mainly from CIS states, such as Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and others. It is a pleasant fact to note that the Ukrainian delegation was the largest — our country was represented by six prominent political scientists. In addition, in the opinion of the Iranian side, reports by members of our group were positively received by all the seminar's participants. Of course, there was no unanimity on all issues, but discussions are why such meetings are held in the first place.

I would also like to stress that the Iranian leadership approached the seminar very seriously. On its last day, all the participants were received by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who summed up our work. By the way, the Iranian side repeatedly emphasized that participants in by far not all the numerous forums held in Teheran have the honor to be received by the president. In the opinion of Rafsanjani, this scientific symposium produced new topics for discussion and, in the future, for adjustments of Iranian foreign policy.

[Nesterenko] What are your personal impressions from that country. Can you still see signs of the aftermath of the Iranian-Iraqi War?

[Humenyuk] Actually, I stayed only in Teheran. At first, it seemed that the War's consequences would be visible. But I still vividly see the following picture: We are flying over the city in the evening and there is an ocean of lights under the plane's wings. You can say that they have no problems with energy sources here. As a matter of fact, all the time I had the feeling that I was in a developed European country. Iranians are very sympathetic to Ukrainians. When they learned where we had come from, they would excitedly exclaim: "Oh, Kiev!..." What strikes your eye in Teheran is the ubiquitous construction sites and the abundance of... food. Meat, vegetables, fruit — store shelves are crammed with all of this. People are confident in their future; throughout our stay, we did not once see a beggar or a vagabond. I do not know, maybe things are not all that great in their province. But if you compare Kiev and Teheran, the Ukrainian capital will score much worse, unfortunately.

I would not like to assume the responsibility of judging Islam, one of the world's oldest religions, but.... To my mind, when you take the everyday and moral side of it, it instills in young people respect for elders and bans drinking alcohol, which has great significance for our Slavic nation. Iranians have a strongly developed dignity.

We visited the largest cultural center of Teheran — the Bahran Culture Center, which attracts talented youth from all across the country. We were asked to attend music classes. It was such a sharp contrast — girls dressed in ethnic clothes and playing music by Liszt and Mozart. You can feel that Iran is not a closed and orthodox Islamic state, but an open and developed country. It provides substantial assistance to Asian countries, especially to former Soviet republics.

[Nesterenko] A wave of "phobia" against the spread of Islamic fundamentalism surges every now and then throughout the world. As is known, this problem also worries Russian political circles. How realistic do you think is the possibility that Islamic fundamentalism will come close to the Russian border? Your view from within Iran, so to speak.

[Humenyuk] It is hard to give an unequivocal answer. First, Iran does not conceal that — having "oil dollars" and enjoying internal political and economic stability — it actively helps the former Soviet republics in Asia. President Rafsanjani himself stressed: "We provide medical, financial, and food assistance and invite youth for training. If you want to call it the export of Islamic fundamentalism, please do." Second, the Iranian president emphasized the good condition of Iranian-Russian relations. The Iranian side, he said, is interested in a peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. Generally speaking, the Iranian policy toward Russia, in my opinion, complies with generally accepted international norms.

[Nesterenko] Do you think that the Central Asian and Caucasian states could forge a military-political bloc in the future?

[Humenyuk] The main issue is the creation of a political-economic alliance. Nothing is being said so far about a military aspect.

[Nesterenko] Does Iran have any impact on the Balkan conflict?

[Humenyuk] As a matter of fact, this is an outdated issue, as a ceasefire is declared in this region thanks to U.S. and UN efforts. It seems to me that there are no reasons to talk about a negative influence of Iran on the Balkan Muslims. This country conducted a quite moderate policy regarding the warring parties. At least, there was no direct military assistance on the part of Iran.

[Nesterenko] From what I know, you are almost the rector of the first Ukrainian Diplomatic Academy. I would not like to jump the gun, but could you please say a couple of words about the institution that you will soon lead?

[Humenyuk] In 1995, the Ukrainian president issued an edict creating that educational institution. Some time ago, the need to establish an institution training qualified diplomats was examined even by the Supreme Council. At present, all the key structures are being formed. On 1 September 1996, our academy will receive its first students.

[Nesterenko] Who will be able to study there?

[Humenyuk] We have experienced a shortage of world-class specialists from the very day of Ukrainian independence. This applies to all spheres, especially to the sphere of foreign politics. This is why our students will be those who already work in the MID [Foreign Ministry] system, as well as those to be appointed by the ministry — that is, people who already have a higher, but not narrowly specialized, diplomatic education. However, this does not mean that our academy will be closed to talented specialists from other economic branches that are keen to learn the diplomatic profession. We can accept as our students all those under forty years of age who have a thorough education and the resolve to work hard.

Ukraine: Bosnia Battalion To Join French Troops Under IFOR

LD1202230396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2127 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Feb 12 (Interfax - Ukraine) — The 240th battalion of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, currently deployed in Sarajevo, is preparing to join the International Peace Implementation Force [IFOR] in Bosnia, Ukrainian Defense Ministry press office told Interfax - Ukraine Monday.

A group of Ukrainian military officials headed by Chief of Staff for the Rear Maj. Gen. Vladimir Kivlyuk left for Sarajevo to establish contacts with French troops and secure supplies of fuel, lubricants and food to the Ukrainian battalion.

Currently, the battalion is undergoing inspection in former Yugoslavia for combat operation readiness. The inspection is connected with Ukraine's final decision to join the peace force for the implementation of the Dayton Accords. Under a NATO decision, the Ukrainian battalion will join French units deployed in southern Bosnia.

Earlier, French and Ukrainian Defense Ministry officials signed an agreement in Paris, under which the French side is to provide for one third of the Ukrainian battalion's supply needs (fuel, lubricants and deep-frozen food - meat, fish and fruit).

The 240th battalion has been part of UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] since 1992 and received supplies on a centralized basis.

Ukraine: Government Submits Bill on Status of Foreign Troops

LD1202161596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1423 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, February 12 (Interfax-Ukraine) — The Ukrainian government has drafted and tabled in parliament for examination the bill of the status of foreign troops in the Ukrainian territory.

The bill is currently under examination at the parliamentary committee for defence and national security, our correspondent has been told by committee chairman Volodymyr Mukhin in Kharkov today.

The law will not specify the rent for the stationing of foreign troops, which is to be put by separate accords, Mukhin explained.

The committee chairman suggested that the bill may be passed into the law already by next summer.

The law will cover, in the first place, the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Crimea, he indicated.

The committee is also currently examining several versions of the National Guards bill, envisaging options ranging from its disbandment to formation on its basis of a rapid reaction force, V. Mukhin disclosed.

National Affairs

Ukraine: New Regulations To Govern Foreigners

WS1302090796 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0323 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Feb 12 — Starting this month, a new set of Ukrainian government regulations will govern the passage and stay of foreigners in the country.

Officials say they need the new regulations to eliminate anachronisms inherited from the Soviet legal system which "allowed foreigners to violate our laws without any responsibility for this."

Under the new rules, law enforcement agencies will have the right to "punish aliens whose behavior is provocative or insulting to state employees" as specified by Article 16, which allows border service and police employees to stamp "Entry into Ukraine is prohibited for (term)" in a passport. The term is established according to the circumstances and type of violation and ranges from six months to five years. The term can also be extended.

"Given the situation when Ukraine is flooded with illegal immigrants, establishment of rules defining the terms for stay of alien individuals in our country is very timely for providing national security," said Border Forces Maj. Serhiy Astahov. "Maybe these rules are far from perfect, but it is better than nothing."

Ukraine: Transfer of Black Sea Fleet Ships Viewed

WS1202155496 Sevastopol FLOT UKRAYINY in Russian 27 Jan 96 p 2

[Article by Captain Second Rank Mykola Savchenko: "The Fleet Should Be Restored — There Is No Other Way Out"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Restoring ships' fitness for work, putting them into permanent readiness, and replenishing the reserves — these were the main tasks set for the servicemen of a group of missile armed patrol boats by Vice Admiral Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy, commander of the Ukrainian Navy, during his visit to the Chernomorskoye garrison.**

The same task has been set to the Ukrainian seamen accepting ships [from the Ukrainian share of the Black Sea Fleet] in Novoozernoye. To expedite the resolution of problems, commissions with high class specialists were sent to the receiving garrisons. In particular, the commission in Chernomorskoye is headed by Rear Admiral Dmytro Ukrainets.

According to Vice Admiral Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy, a major task today is to realize that under circumstances of financial deficit, all efforts should be directed toward maximally restoring the ships' fitness for work and looking for internal reserves. Appeals to industrial representatives should be directed only in case of extreme need, after having exhausted their own reserves.

The majority of those receiving the ships will have to acquire an understanding of such an approach. In former years, huge and often ungrounded funds were allocated for various repair and maintenance work. As of now, such funds virtually do not exist or, to be precise, they are minimal. As a consequence, it was necessary to decide: either to do nothing and remain without our own fleet until funds for the restoration of ships appear, or to do everything possible with our own strength, with only a minimal participation of naval dockyard workers, and make at least a portion of ships fit for work. We have chosen the latter option. We have already had experience in restoring ships with minimal expenses. Thus, the repair of the "Donetsk" air cushion landing trip cost seven times less than was anticipated due to a rational approach toward repair technology and the use of our own capabilities.

In short, we face a huge amount of work to restore the ships. The Ukrainian Navy commissions that accepted facilities and ships from the Black Sea Fleet could see in what critical condition the transferred ships and the Black Sea Fleet as a whole were. This confirmed once again that the fleet had been brought into such a condition primarily due to a prolonged delay of the fleet's practical division. Following such a division, each side could tangibly deal with its own ships, selecting which of them have to be repaired for service, mothballed, or completely decomissioned. Instead of this, a huge fleet was being preserved and equally huge funds were being spent and squandered, but the fleet was dying all the same because over the last three years the ships were not docked for any repair.

Therefore, only a further division of the fleet can enable both the Russian and Ukrainian sides to tangibly deal with their ships. Ultimately, the ships will acquire a master, while the people will change their tasks. Here is how this was commented on by one of the senior officers in the Chernomorskoye garrison who came to serve in the Ukrainian Navy:

"Now the task has been radically altered. Formerly, it was advised not to spare any equipment because it was to be transferred anyway; now it is time to restore and build."

The task to restore and build applies not only to ships. By the middle of last week, we received 111 items out of 130; all of them need various repair work. Some of them were purposely debilitated over the past months, when it became finally clear that they were to be transferred. Many of them were stripped of serviceable technical appliances and equipment — which were passed to the ships transferred to the Russian Fleet. In exchange, as it was done on the "Konstantin Olshanskiy" large landing ship, defective equipment was installed.

According to the Navy deputy commander for armament and chief of Ukrainian Navy Armament and Ship Repair Department, Captain First Rank Volodymyr Kolpakov, "Konstantin Olshanskiy" was stripped of its capstan and aft winch, which were established on a large landing ship transferred to the Russian Fleet. Such examples are numerous, and they sometimes cause the rescheduling of dates for accepting those ships.

True, credit should be given to the Russian Navy's commission, which reacts adequately to all shortcomings during the transfer process. Thus, in particular, a representative of the Russian Navy command, Rear Admiral Konstantin Kolotygin, assured Captain First Rank Volodymyr Kolpakov that the shortcomings revealed during the transfer of the "Konstantin Olshanskiy" large landing ship will be eliminated.

However, accepting the ships is only part of the business. According to Captain First Rank Volodymyr Kolpakov, immediately following the transfer all ships would be divided into three groups. The first group would consist of those ships which can be made fit for work in 1996 due to appropriate subsidies and internal capabilities. The second group would include the ships to be restored in 1997. There will also be a group of ships requiring considerable funds for their prolonged repair or maintenance.

Ukrainian Navy Commander Vice Admiral Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy set the task of restoring all the ships for work; not one of the ships received from the Black Sea Fleet will be scrapped.

Problems are undoubtedly numerous, and they cannot be solved with enthusiasm alone. The buildup of the Ukrainian Navy as a component of the Armed Forces is a nationwide task. Therefore, this task should be resolved at the top state level. This means that a state commission should be set up, at least for the period of making the ships fit for work. The commission should include representatives of the government, the Supreme Council, and the Defense Ministry in order to resolve all problems on the spot in Chernomorskoye, Novoozernoye, and, subsequently, in Sevastopol. As of today, during the entire period of accepting facilities and ships from the Crimean Naval Base, the location was visited by one deputy defense minister and four liaison officers from Kiev. One has the impression that certain circles in Kiev have so far not realized that Ukraine needs its own national fleet, that it is necessary to tackle these problems and work out a program for Navy buildup. This light-minded attitude has already begun bringing losses to us.

Due to the fact that the level of money allowances of Ukrainian Navy servicemen was not close enough to those of the Black Sea Fleet, we have lost very valuable and professional naval cadres whose training will require far more funds and efforts. If taking into account that unprofessional service may make the equipment unfit for work, the losses may prove still greater. It is appropriate here to cite the saying that a stingy man pays twice. Unfortunately, this saying is often forgotten.

Furthermore, it has come to absurdity: With the beginning of the reception of ships from the Black Sea Fleet, the subsidies to the Navy practically terminated. Many officers, members of the commission, cannot receive their travel allowances. The ships received have so far not been provided with the minimum of fuel needed to maintain their vital activities. One can only hope that the last promises to improve the situation will be kept. Only in this case will it be possible to effectively persuade those who decide to seek service in the Navy. The

Ukrainian Navy is a serious business to be pursued for a long time, forever.

Ukraine: KPU Boss on Russian Elections, Constitution

WS1302100896 Lvov VYSOKYY ZAMOK in Ukrainian 3 Feb 96 pp 1,2

[Interview with Petro Symonenko, first secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine Central Committee, by Nataliya Balyuk; place and date not given: "A Morning Star Rose Above the Russian Communists. And the Ukrainian Ones Say 'It Is Not Evening Yet'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **First, a few words about my interlocutor.**

Petro Symonenko was born in 1952; he is a Ukrainian, married with two sons — one of them is a student, the other studies at the Donetsk University. According to his education, Petro Symonenko is a mining electromechanical engineer.

After graduating from a higher educational institution, he worked at a design institute. He went all the way from a member of the institute's Komsomol branch to secretary of the Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee, and held this office for six years. In 1988, he stood at the head of the Mariupol City Communist Party Committee. In 1989 he became secretary for ideological work, and in 1990 second secretary of the Donetsk Oblast Communist Party Committee. After the ban on the Communist Party in 1991, he worked as deputy director of the Ukrvuhlemash amalgamation. At the Communist Party of Ukraine [KPU] Congress held in Donetsk in 1993, he was elected first secretary of the KPU Central Committee. Currently, he is a deputy to the Ukrainian Supreme Council and the leader of the communist faction.

Petro Symonenko is undoubtedly a staunch communist, though not an orthodox. Although he is still far from the social democratic views of left-wingers in European countries, he perfectly understands that, for example, the past will never return. So he does not set it as his goal to revive the Soviet Union. The communists are currently in deep opposition to the current authorities, and are criticizing them mercilessly. However, not only left-wingers, but also certain centrists, right-wingers, and so-called ultrapatriots are doing so.

Today we propose to our readers an interview with Petro Symonenko by a VYSOKYY ZAMOK correspondent. Although at the beginning of our conversation he expressed doubts that a Lvov-based newspaper would publish this interview, we are proving once against that there are no "personae non grata" for VYSOKYY ZAMOK. Pluralism is pluralism...

[Balyuk] Recently, you probably celebrated the victory of the communists in the parliamentary elections in Russia. How, in your opinion, will the Russian left-wing forces act during the period between these elections and the presidential race, and how, from your viewpoint, will they develop their success?

[Symonenko] The Russian communists have not become euphoric because of this. Now they have to unite all patriotic forces around the communist faction in the State Duma to return power to the people.

The Russian Communist Party's victory in the elections to the State Duma was a vivid result of the policy conducted in Russia. Let us recall how much talk there was about the success of economic reforms and high living standards on the eve of the elections, but people, remembering the past and thinking about the future, gave the communists preference anyway. Additionally, Russian voters expected that newly elected deputies would finally recollect the social protection of the people by passing appropriate laws (this, by the way, is one of the explanations as to why it was predominantly elderly people who voted for the communists).

Nevertheless, it will be very hard for the communists to work in the new Duma. As it is, all political responsibility will now be thrown on left-wingers, as, incidentally, is currently the case in our country. There is talk that although the communists won the majority of seats in parliament, they are not passing laws or resolving issues which bother people. However, of the 404 people's deputies (before the last by-elections) there were as few as 90 communists, meaning that they were not in the majority.

In Russia, the executive branch and the president will not heed the communist faction's opinions, but will continue to fulfill the will of other political forces. The communists are thus not going to join the government headed by Viktor Chernomyrdin, but will carry out their policy in the State Duma, and prepare for the presidential elections.

[Balyuk] How will the Russian elections affect the situation in Ukraine? The Communist Party's victory will perhaps provide some stimulus for left-wing forces. Are you going to use the best experience of the fraternal communist party?

[Symonenko] We have one experience. Our current activities, taking into account the elections in Russia, are aimed at organizational strengthening and a more flexible policy. The Russian Communist Party has gathered around itself highly respected intellectuals known both in Russia and abroad.

A law on elections according to the majority system was adopted in Russia at the initiative of the communists. We think such a law should be passed in Ukraine as well, so that somebody finally bears political responsibility. Everybody says that they are protecting people's interests, but nobody is going to answer for the consequences of the current policy. The communists have already drafted such a law, but for some reason Mr. Stretovych's commission is delaying its submittal to the Presidium for consideration.

[Balyuk] Carefully watching the alignment of forces in the Ukrainian Supreme Council, one can notice that regarding certain issues, left- and right-wingers act as a united front. What issues unite the communists and representatives of other political forces?

[Symonenko] Although everybody understood that the constitutional agreement should not have been passed, the majority of deputies voted for it anyway to appease the president's ambitions.

We have frequently begged our colleagues from the parliament to vote for halting privatization. It seems that everyone agrees that the privatization which is currently conducted in our state will only lead to negative results. Why should we not halt this privatization, and observe what has changed in at least one branch — whether people have suffered or not, and in whose hands shares in companies have ended up? Again, nobody has supported us.

Or let us take, for example, the issue of land. As it is, a boundary has never united people, but has rather driven them to axes and pitchforks. We are categorically against transforming land into a commodity in our country. Ukraine's land resources have almost been depleted. Last year, 29 million tonnes of grain were collected, while, for example, in 1991 — almost 51 million tonnes. According to scientists' forecasts, Ukraine will harvest as little as 20 million tonnes of grain this year, and 10 million tonnes next year. Because of privatization, the processing branch of the agricultural sector is also being blocked. So, if we are to privatize land anyway, we must tackle this issue very carefully, gradually, and taking into account characteristic features of this or that region. Although we have repeatedly insisted on this, nobody listens to us in this area as well.

So, we cannot come to agreement on elementary, fundamental issues. And if we sometimes vote identically on intermediate, unimportant issues, this does not yet mean that further cooperation is possible.

[Balyuk] Who is developing the economic program of left-wing forces? Who could run the economy should left-wing forces lead a government?

[Symonenko] Many educated experts have been engaged in the development of our economic program — an academician, two doctors of science, practical workers, and party members. However, we so far do not "expose" these comrades. Central Committee Secretary Vitaliy Dotsenko, candidate of economic sciences, is responsible for economic issues in our party. So far, we have not revealed other names. It often happens that we reveal someone's name, and later this individual suffers.

[Balyuk] The Communist Party has initiated collecting signatures for holding a referendum on key constitutional issues. What is the fundamental difference between your draft of the Basic Law and the one proposed by the Constitutional Commission's working group?

[Symonenko] Their constitution lays a foundation for dictatorship, destroys the legislative authority, and to a considerable degree strengthens the presidential authority's position and rejects the social protection of the population.

This constitution is deliberately meant not for many years, but to accelerate the division of property. Unfortunately, Leonid Kuchma is not an independent politician. The president's entourage is isolating him from everything that is taking place in Ukraine. I have personally become convinced on many occasions that he simply does not control the situation.

[Balyuk] This is like a fairy tale about a good czar who does not know that his people suffer....

[Symonenko] Czars did not have such power as President Kuchma. I will repeat, if this draft constitution is adopted, we will face dictatorship. Our draft constitution is substantially different and envisions a system of popular rule. We advocate state ownership, but taking into account the economic changes which have occurred in Ukraine, and we do not negate various forms of ownership. We are against presidential rule, and a Cabinet of Ministers subordinated to the Supreme Council.

[Balyuk] Who is considered to be the leader of Ukrainian left- wing forces anyway? Whom are you going to nominate for the next presidential elections?

[Symonenko] In Ukraine, three political parties belong to left- wing forces — the Peasant Party, headed by Serhiy Dovhan, the Socialist Party, led by Oleksandr Moroz, and the Communist Party, which I head. The issue of a common leader has not yet been addressed. When a Supreme Council chairman was to be elected, we united, and nominated one candidate during a conference. Currently, it is still unknown how the situation will develop. The main thing is that we have people to choose from.

Ukraine: Crimean Observer on Increasing Pro-Russian Sentiments

WS1302121596 Simferopol GOLOS KRYMA in Russian 26 Jan 96 p 2

[Interview with Crimean political researcher Oleksandr Andriyovych Formanchuk by Sevil Kurshutova; place and date not given: "Oleksandr Formanchuk: 'A New Surge of the Russian Idea Is Logical'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Well-known Crimean political researcher Oleksandr Formanchuk is analyzing the reasons for and possible consequences of the activization of leftist and pro-Russian forces in Crimea.**

[Kurshutova] Oleksandr Andriyovych, how can you explain the recent tendency of unification of communists and representatives of pro-Russian forces in Crimea? How long can this alliance exist?

[Formanchuk] What we are currently observing is not an extraordinary thing. It is quite logical because in a transitional period when socialist principles are preserved in the economy and the first bricks are laid in the foundation of the market economy, a decrease in the people's living standards is inevitable. Naturally, this creates additional opportunities for taking advantage of current difficulties and complications, because recent developments in Russia, where communists — particularly those in provinces — received much support, will inevitably affect the development of the situation in other regions of the former Soviet Union, including Crimea. By the way, the Crimean Communist Party is already trying to benefit from the current situation.

On the other hand, the fact that the Russian idea will have to receive a new surge is also logical because the upcoming presidential elections in Russia and elections in general step up the forces which perceive events differently. Hence, the activization of the Russian idea in the person of Yuriy Meshkov, as well as in the form of the Association of Crimean Compatriots, the Republican Crimean Party, and the Republican Crimean Movement is objectively inevitable, and to some degree their union with communists at this stage is objectively inevitable.

Truth be told, one should not expect a serious unity because each of the sides pursues its own — narrow-group, narrow-faction, or narrow-party — interests. The Communist Party views this unity as a path toward the restoration of the USSR. The wing supporting Sergey Tsekov sees in this unity an activization of the fight against Ukraine and a shift toward Russia, but follows more moderate legal positions. As regards Meshkov, he is simply profiting from this idea personally.

[Kurshutova] Do you think that the intense wish of communists to make the Crimean Supreme Soviet resign is explained by the realization that the current situation is a most suitable one to change power?

[Formanchuk] Of course. If elections were held today, the Communist Party would have received the maximum number of votes, although — I am convinced, and Russia's experience showed this — no party can individually come to power now. In any case, it is necessary to look for some allies and join some blocs. I think that it is no accident that communists have chosen a course toward unification with the supporters of the Russian idea and with Yuriy Meshkov. This is obvious profiteering from slogans that remain popular.

[Kurshutova] To what extent is Yuriy Meshkov's return to big politics real?

[Formanchuk] It is clear that Yuriy Meshkov will not return to politics in the form he left it. I believe that to restore the institution of president of Crimea is very difficult, and this is possible only if Yuriy Mechkov's supporters come to power. The choice of Meshkov — as an ally — by communists is nothing but tactics of the current moment. Communists will withdraw from the union with the former president as easily as they agreed to it.

[Kurshutova] Judging from everything, the pressure which the opposition places on the Crimean Supreme Soviet will increase. Will the legislature be able to preserve its position?

[Formanchuk] This depends on whether the Crimean Supreme Soviet resolves a number of principal issues linked to the viability of the Republic. At issue here is primarily the approval of the constitution and reform of executive power. If these two tasks are resolved in the next six months I think that the legislature has a future. If otherwise, the opposition will have additional arguments for the resignation of the current corps of deputies.

[Kurshutova] Perhaps the further development of the situation in Crimea also depends on the official position of Kiev.

[Formanchuk] Undoubtedly. It is necessary to reestablish normal, trusting relations with Kiev. Regrettably, the fact that such relations have not been established cannot be blamed so much on the current leaders of the Crimean Autonomous Republic as on Ukrainian leaders. Over recent months, Simferopol made a serious step toward Kiev. But, regrettably, Ukrainian leaders are still observing a wait-and-see attitude. This does not at all imply the absence of a policy regarding Crimea in general. In my opinion, the absence of a policy is also a policy. Most probably, this is a deliberate stand aimed at decreasing the threshold of Crimean statehood — by taking advantage of inter-Crimean disagreements — to more steadfastly dictate one's terms. This is an evil approach. I think that the current Ukrainian leadership must establish more trusting relations with the current leadership of the Crimean Supreme Council.

[Kurshutova] Do you believe that the current position of Kiev regarding Crimea is fraught with serious consequences for Ukraine itself?

[Formanchuk] Certainly, because we know that the Crimean Communist Party openly stated its intention to hold mass actions against the adoption of the Ukrainian Constitution. In addition, a recent rally showed that a new surge of the pro-Russian idea in Crimea is imminent and this cannot but lead to the destabilization of the situation on the peninsula. If a normal dialogue between Kiev and Simferopol is not established today, the tense situation inside Crimean will intensify.

Economic Issues

Ukraine: Credit Agreement Signed With Japanese Bank for $23 Million

LD1202180896 Moscow ECONOMIC NEWS AGENCY in Russian 1500 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ukrainian Government and the Export- Import Bank of Japan have signed an agreement providing Ukraine with Japanese credit totalling 24 billion yen ($23 million), part of which will take the form of Japanese goods worth 6 billion yen. The Ukrainian Government will use the rest of the money to support the country's balance of payments. The credit is being provided within the framework of the program of aid to Ukraine from the G-7 countries and the European Union, which was agreed on back in 1994.

Ukraine: Parliament Approves Law on Payments for Land

LD0902231896 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukraine's parliament today approved on first reading the law "On Introducing Amendments and Addenda to the Law of Ukraine 'On Payments for Land'" under which payments for land are made in the form of a tax or rental charge, the amount of which is determined on the basis of the state land register and estimation of the cost of land. Under the law, the land tax on one hectare of arable land, hayland, or grassland will be levied at the rate of 0.07 percent and on one hectare of land under perennial plants at the rate of 0.02 percent. The land tax on one hectare of land within the limits of a populated area will amount to one percent.

Legislative bodies, state and local bodies of power, courts of law, bodies of the prosecutor's office, budget-supported organizations, registered religious and charitable organizations that are not engaged in entrepreneurial activities, cultural, scientific, educational, health, social welfare, physical culture and sports organizations that are financed from the state budget will be exempt from land tax.

Payments for land will be made to special budget accounts in the village, town, and city councils of people's deputies. Under the law, payments for land can be arranged separately, under international agreements.

The Supreme Council resolved that until the law of Ukraine "On Payments for Land" is put into effect, payments for land are made under the existing procedure; however, the amount of payments for one hectare of land cannot exceed citizen's tax-free minimum income multiplied by 220.

Ukraine: Fund Set Up To Promote Energy Saving

WS1302090096 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0748 GMT 13 Feb 96

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As the Ukrainian Cabinet's press center reported on Monday, February 12, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted a resolution to set up the Extrabudgetary Fund for Energy-Saving and endorsed its Regulations. The nascent governmental entity will finance and materially support fuel/power consumers' moves toward saving those precious resources and will have a share in diverse economic restructuring projects, primarily aimed at fuel and/or power saving. The Fund's money is expected to come from penalties imposed for excessive fuel/power consumption, as well as from voluntary donations and other incomings, which are not prohibited by Ukraine's legislation.

Belarus

Belarus: IMF 'Indefinitely' Postpones Second Tranche of Loan

LD1202225296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1827 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, Feb 12 (FIA-Interfax) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has indefinitely postponed granting Belarus $70 million, the second tranche of its stand-by loan, due to differences with the Belarusian government.

The IMF mission disagreed with the Belarusian government's decision to impose hard currency regulation, a spokesman for the IMF second European division, Ishan Kapur, told Interfax's Financial Information Agency Monday. In particular, the regulation implies mandatory sale of all hard currency earnings.

The IMF officials highly praised the imposition of the ruble corridor on January 25, but doubted that the government will be able to keep it between 11,300 and 13,100 Belarusian rubles. They also proposed the upper bracket be reduced to 11,500 rubles as of April.

In addition, the IMF and the government did not reach agreement on the budget policy and the pace of privatization.

Belarus: Foreign Minister Reviews Briefing With Lukashenka

WS1302101296 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1800 GMT 11 Feb 96

[Interview with Belarusian Foreign Minister Uladzimir Syanko by unidentified reporter on the "Rezanans" program; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Reporter] What is Belarus' stance on participation in a common European security system and on NATO's eastward expansion?

[Syanko] Belarus is located in the center of Europe. It is a Central European country, and with its territory, population, and potential, including the military, it undoubtedly influences the situation in this large European region, and thus on the general situation in Europe. Of course, [at the 6 February meeting of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry Collegium] there was talk about such conceptual issues as NATO's eastward expansion. In this regard, the Belarusian president very clearly reiterated the position which he had presented on more than one occasion and which our ministry had implemented. Belarus is quite actively cooperating with NATO within the framework of the Partnership for Peace program. The president set it as our task to invigorate, accelerate the drafting of the so-called presentation document, and sign it. We will complete the drafting of this document in the immediate future, which will become another step in our contacts with this organization. Nevertheless, in the military-political and military-strategic sense, Belarus is clearly against NATO expansion, particularly against the concept of this organization's rapid eastward expansion.

[Reporter] At the meeting, the thesis about the multidirectional nature and balance of Belarus foreign policy was frequently voiced.

[Syanko] In his speech, Alyaksandr Ryhoravich Lukashenka expressed the opinion that our policy should be balanced and careful, and that it should be equally based in all directions. It should be equally active both in the east and west. He even drew the comparison that our approach toward this should resemble the operation of a mechanism — every mechanism should be balanced. I want to say that we not merely share this opinion, but also are implementing it. It is extremely important for us to have excellent relations with Russia and the CIS states. However, it is no less important to have good relations developed as much as possible with West European countries, the United States, and the Far East. This is exactly what our diplomats are doing.

[Reporter] Great attention was paid to economic diplomacy. Could you tell whether these issues are difficult, and, in general, how do you see the method of resolving them?

[Syanko] Economic diplomacy currently holds probably the most prominent place in the activities of every country's foreign ministry. Belarus is not an exception here, and this is not accidental because currently our state is obviously in a socioeconomic crisis. Our diplomats should thus exert all possible efforts to contribute to overcoming the economic crisis by attracting foreign investors and improving our economic cooperation with various countries. It was no accident that the Belarusian president again emphasized that this direction is a priority of our work. He provided specific data on last year's results of our economic cooperation with various states, and we are pleased that these results were generally positive. Nonetheless, it was clearly emphasized that our efforts — the efforts of the diplomatic services — are still insufficient in this regard.

[Reporter] Uladzimir Lyavonavich, in general, what were the results of the last meeting of the collegium?

[Syanko] Everyone knows that the main thing for us is that the assessment of our work was generally positive. We thus feel that we are doing a good job. However, the most important thing are the tasks with which we were charged, and which we should understand, comprehend, and achieve, because our life did not end with this, and, as you can see, the state leadership pays attention to our work. I think that similar meetings will be held in the future.

Belarus: Chyhir Outlines Price, Tax Cuts

LD1202193996 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1700 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A conference of heads of republican and regional bodies which are members of the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus opened in Minsk today. During this week, the country's trade unionists are discussing tasks facing them in the new socioeconomic situation. The chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet, Syamyon Sharestki, addressed the conference today and answered questions.

The prime minister, Mikhail Chyhir, also took part in the conference. Here is an excerpt from his speech:

[Begin Chyhir recording — in Russian] The price of gas has been cut by agreement with Russia. A new contract for the current year has been signed. This, together with the reserves of Beltransgaz [Belarusian gas transport], has allowed us to reconsider the gas price for our consumers in the republic as a whole. The price for gas was cut by 8.5 per cent from 1 January.

Fairly recently prices were also reconsidered for electricity and heat — I don't know if you received them or not. Prices for energy sources were cut by 10 per cent, and prices for electricity in the republic on average have been cut by about 2 per cent, although it varies somewhat from area to area, but not by much.

So, in principle, these moves provide a certain saving for businesses to be able to survive these difficult conditions. Apart from that, you probably know that a draft budget has been submitted to the Supreme Soviet. It envisages a 4.4 per cent cut in the tax burden compared with the previous year. Thus, the tax burden has been cut by 9 per cent in comparison with what we had last year [as heard]. Whether this is a lot or a little is a matter of opinion. On the one hand, producers say that it is very little and that it is difficult to survive, but on the other hand, it is nevertheless a sort of move, and let us make use of it. To be sure, we should admit that the budget is not yet passed. It is currently being considered by the Supreme Soviet. But I think that the proposals submitted to the Supreme Soviet will be passed. I do not think that the Supreme Soviet will go for an increase in taxes. This is quite natural. Most talk is of how to cut taxes further. If there are some suggestions, the government will not, of course, object. But we must still recognize that the budget has no room for possible changes in spending. God grant that we are able to fulfill the revenue section to the extent envisaged in the draft budget.

We feel that the winter period will be difficult, but by the end of the heating season we hope and expect that nonetheless industry improves and the results of work in industry are better. You know that our task is not allow a drop in comparison with last year. The forecast is for an increase in GDP of 9 per cent.

As for agriculture, this sector is in a most difficult situation. The results, of course, are shocking. The indicators are most disgusting. Milk yields are laughable and weight gains are miserable. All the problems and difficulties which exist have led, naturally, to a critical situation in agriculture. We know that without outside support agriculture will not be in a state to carry out the sowing campaign. Therefore, measures are being taken to build up fuel stocks in order to support the agrarian complex, just like last year. This must be the final help to agriculture. Why final? Because we have already raised purchase prices, as a result of what I would call the prices revolution, to such a level that even today financial indicators for 1996 show that state and collective farms should and must operate profitably. Only the worst sort of mismanagement will make an agricultural enterprise loss-making. [end recording]

Tajikistan

Tajikistan: Radio Reports on EU Humanitarian Aid

LD1202163496 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The EU has allocated over 6 million ECU for humanitarian aid to Tajikistan in the second half of this year, Tajik Radio reported. The presidium of the EU Humanitarian Office continued to render assistance to the needy residents, emigrants, and refugees of Tajikistan last year. The Khovar News Agency has learned from the aforementioned presidium that the budget of the organization in our republic for 1995 amounted to $10,480,000. Food products, medicine, construction materials, blankets, clothes, and children's shoes were purchased for the needy of the republic.

Under a resolution of the Commission of the EU, 6,135,000 ECU has been allotted to render assistance to Tajikistan in the second half of 1996. It should be mentioned that this sum was allotted on the basis of a six-month agreement of international nongovernmental organizations in Europe and UN organizations, including the [World] Food Organization, the Federation of the International Red Cross, and Red Crescent, the agricultural organization of Germany, and the Inter [word indistinct] of Great Britain [last two organizations as received].

The presidium of the EU Humanitarian Office has provided Tajikistan with medicine for diphtheria. It is allotting money to repair houses that were ruined in Khatlon Region [southern Tajikistan].

A program carried out by UN envisaged sending timber and corrugated asbestos board to restore and repair 17,000 houses. This program was implemented in 1995. The implementation of the aforementioned program will be carried out by a Swiss international organization.

The overall budget of the presidium of the Humanitarian Office of the EU to our republic in 1995 was 16,615,000 ECU.

Tajikistan: Rakhmanov Appoints New Regional Officials

LD1202235196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1934 GMT 12 Feb 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Emomali Rakhmanov has dismissed Governor of Leninabad Region Abdudzhalol Khamaidov appointing Kasym Kasymov as acting governor instead, presidential spokesman Zafar Saidov told Interfax. This is the latest in a series of new government appointments made in Tajikistan.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: 32-year-old Kasymov, born in Khodzhent district of the Leninabad region, graduated from the Tajik agricultural college with a degree in agronomy. He is a member of parliament and has been in charge of the Khodzhent district until his new appointment.

The spokesman described Kasymov as being one of the younger generation leaders, both educated and talented, who is firmly behind Rakhmanov's policy aimed at achieving internal stability. He is also a staunch supporter of market reforms as "the only possible way of leading the country out of crisis," Saidov said.

Heads of the Matchink district and the town of Kalininabad, both of them in the Khatlon region, were also dismissed and a new administrative unit, Baldzhuvan district, was formed there.

The president issued a decree on Monday to sack four of the prime minister's advisors.

Local observers say more heads are expected to roll.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: 49-year-old Yahyo Azimov was appointed in charge of the government last Thursday. He replaces former prime minister Dzhamshed Karimov who resigned.

Earlier, under pressure from leaders of the revolts in Kurgan-Tyube and Tursunzade, the president had to dismiss First Deputy Premier Makhmadsaid Ubaydullayev, the Administration's Chief of Staff Izatullo Khaioyev and Governor of Khatlon Region Abdudzhalol Salimov. Ex-Mayor of Tursunzade Ibadullo Boimatov, who led a revolt against the government was appointed the country's trade representative to Tashkent.

The spokesman said that as part of measures aimed at economic restructuring, Rakhamonv issued a decree on the sale of cotton and aluminium as well as the use of foreign earnings intended for liberalization of the country's exports.

He said the decree provides for lifting licences and quotas on exports of cotton and aluminium, the country's main foreign cash earning products, from February 1. From now on, cotton and aluminium to other countries is to be sold for hard cash and at market prices except for part of aluminium to be sold for domestic needs by the country's sole aluminium plant in Tursunzade.

The national bank is instructed to draft regulations on the sale of foreign exchange revenues at the country's interbank currency exchange.

IF Note: In 1994 Tajikistan gathered a total of 528,000 tonnes of raw cotton selling about 100,000 tonnes of this amount to Russia. Other importers of Tajik-grown cotton include some other CIS states, the United States, Japan, South Korea, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey.

The country's aluminium production in 1995 ran at 230,000 tonnes compared with 236,500 tonnes the year before.

Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan: Niyazov, Turkish President Discuss Economic Ties

LD1202095096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0616 GMT 12 Feb 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Palariya]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ankara, 12 Feb — Saparmurad Niyazov, president of Turkmenistan, today begins a two-day official visit to Turkey. The trip is intended to evaluate the current state of relations between the two countries and define avenues of future cooperation. He was in Istanbul from 7 to 11 February for a series of medical checkups. One of the main issues Niyazov will discuss during his meeting in Ankara with Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and Prime Minister Tansu Ciller will be the plan to transport Turkmen natural resources to Turkey via Iran.

The leaders of the two countries are expected to sign a protocol on the outcome of the visit and long-term cooperation. Ankara believes this will boost bilateral dealings.

At a meeting on 11 February of the Turkmen-Turkish business council in Istanbul, S. Niyazov spoke approvingly of bilateral relations. He said Turkish investment in Turkmenistan had now passed $1 billion dollars and that Turkish firms working in his country were trusted and enjoyed a good reputation.

Meanwhile, Nikhat Gekiygit [name as transliterated], chairman of the council for business cooperation with the CIS, said financial problems forced Turkish companies to cut short projects in Turkmenistan or call them off altogether. He called on the Turkmenistan leadership to include the $35 million owed to Turkish companies into its payment plan.

Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan: Resolution on Improving Foreign Investment Adopted

LD1202185396 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 1430 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] With the aims of simplifying the procedure for the establishment and state registration of enterprises involving foreign investment on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan and increasing their efficiency, the Cabinet of Ministers today adopted a resolution on improving the procedure for the establishment and state registration of the activities of enterprises involving foreign investment in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Approved therein are approaches to the procedure of establishment and state registration of enterprises involving foreign investment, international associations and organizations, and their structural subunits. The constituent documents and the state registration of enterprises have been compiled by expert legal opinion. The full text of the resolution will be published in the press on 13 February.

Uzbekistan: 'Stream of Emigrants' Departing for Russia

LD1202111096 Almaty KARAVAN-BLITS in Russian 1 Feb 96 p 5

["The Grass Is Greener on the Other Side"—KARAVAN-BLITZ headline]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tashkent — Every day, 130-150 people are receiving [Russian] citizenship in the Russian embassy in Tashkent. In all, according to the figures of Aleksey Ivanov, consul of the Russian Federation, 170,000 inhabitants of Uzbekistan have became citizens of Russia in the last few years. The overwhelming majority of them have already moved to their historical motherland [Russia]. Moreover, many people are leaving by themselves, avoiding official channels. Taken together, the number of people who have emigrated to Russia exceeds more than half a million people.

The stream of emigrants is greatest from Tashkent, Navoy, Fergana, Samarkand, Chirchik, Almalyk, Bekabad, Zarafshan, Uch-Kuduk, Gulistan, and Angren. Russians have virtually abandoned the countryside, where the standard of living is especially low. Tatars, Koreans, Germans, Jews, and Bashkirs are also leaving. Quite often entire workforces leave together. An entire team of 230 miners from Angren has moved to mine diamonds near Arkhangelsk [Russia]. The team of the popular builder Romanenko has moved to Belgorod [Russian town near border with Ukraine] from the Charvak hydroelectric power station near Tashkent, which has been put on hold.

Uzbeks are emigrating to Russia as well, to their relatives, as a rule. They are taking citizenship for the sake of seasonal work, more often in the oil and gas deposits of Siberia.

Armenia

Armenia: President Receives Turkish Envoy on Karabakh

NC1202220096 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1950 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Levon Ter-Petrosyan today received Ayhan Kamel, Turkey's representatives to the OSCE Minsk Group and Turkish President Suleyman Demirel's special envoy, and the head of the Caucasian desk at the Turkish Foreign Ministry, who was accompanying Kamel. They had previously visited Baku on a similar mission.

The president's chief adviser Zhirayr Liparityan and Deputy Foreign Minister Vardan Oskanyan were present at the meeting, which discussed the prospects of settling the Karabakh problem and the existing possibilities for developing Armenian-Turkish relations.

Ayhan Kamel handed a message to the Armenian president from Turkish President Demirel. In the letter, Turkey expresses a desire to assist in the solution of the problem within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group [words indistinct].

Armenia: Ter-Pertosyan Meets Russia's Nikolayev

NC1202220596 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1950 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Levon Ter-Petrosyan today received Andrey Nikolayev, director of Russia's Federal Frontier Service, and the delegation accompanying him.

The joint defense of CIS external borders, (?financial), organizational, and material-technical problems were discussed. Both sides noted that cooperation between the Armenian and Russian frontier troops is steadily becoming more productive [words indistinct].

National Security Minister Serzh Sargisyan and Levon Stepanyan, commander of the frontier troops in Armenia, took part in the meeting.

Russian Ambassador to Armenia Andrey Urnov was present at the meeting.

President Levon Ter-Petrosyan also held a private meeting with Andrey Nikolayev during which matters relating to Armenian-Russian ties were discussed.

Armenia: Seleznev's Stance on Karabakh Evokes Negative Response

MK1302121796 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Feb 96 p 3

[Report by Armen Khanbabyan: "Russian Federation State Duma's Speaker Is Against Any Redrawing of Borders. Discarded Approaches to the Settlement of the Karabakh Problem Will Be Used Again"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The recent interview of Gennadiy Seleznev, Russian State Duma speaker, to the Azerbaijani newspaper GYUNAY evoked a considerable negative response in Armenia. The local press has published excerpts citing, in particular, Mr. Seleznev's answer to the question about prospects of settling the Karabakh problem: "I am convinced that the Karabakh land belongs to Azerbaijan. Let our Armenian colleagues bear no grudge against us, but the redrawing of borders by means of an armed intervention will not lead to any good. I have always been against the aggression launched by the Armenians in Karabakh."

The frankness of the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] leader could hardly be pleasing to his Armenian colleagues. Sergey Badalyan, leader of the Communist Party of Armenia [CPA], when clarifying his party's stance on the Karabakh issues, has stressed more than once that "we are linking this issue with the creation of a new union," in which, in the opinion of the [Armenian] Communists, the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic should become a full-fledged component of the Federation, on equal terms with Armenia, Azerbaijan, and other republics. At the same time, Sergey Badalyan insisted that "our stance on this matter is similar to that of the Communist Party of Russia." The reality, however, turned out to be a bit different. According to the local press, either the Armenian Communists conceal their actual views, or their statement about a complete mutual understanding with the CPRF is not true.

These events have given grounds for President Levon Ter-Petrosyan to voice his unprecedentedly harsh criticism of the Communists. The head of state recalled that in the previous parliamentary election the leftists suffered a considerable defeat, since "the Communist Party has never had any serious roots in Armenia, and in the past it was bayoneted to power by the 11th Red Army" (meaning the Bolshevist occupation in 1920). "CPA leaders, bragging about their connections with the communist leaders of Russia, keep claiming that, if they come to power, they will settle the Karabakh problem, but everybody can see now that the Communists intend to settle it by using old means," the president continued. In Levon Ter-Petrosyan's opinion, however, a communist revanche is completely out of the question in Armenia today, because "the Communists can only bayonet their way back here with the help of the Red Army and in no other way. They have no other chances."

It will be recalled that in Armenia, unlike other CIS countries, the Communist Party has never been victimized, repressed, or persecuted over the years of independence. Not infrequently, while polemizing with the communist ideology, leaders of the republic not only did nothing to prevent the Communist Party from participating in political life, but even acknowledged a certain attractiveness of leftist ideas. The present statements of the head of state most probably mean that official Yerevan, while constantly emphasizing the need to develop diverse Armenian-Russian relations, does not, nevertheless, intend to accept the position of the Russian Communists on the Karabakh issue — the position which today is almost identical to the approach used by the Kremlin.

Armenia: Communist Leader Discusses Seleznev Remarks on Karabakh

NC0902175496 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0756 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("RESPUBLICA ARMENIA" daily), 02/09/96 — Leader of Armenian Communists Sergey Badalian held a press conference yesterday, to provide explanations in regard with the declaration of the Secretary of the Central Committee of Russian Communist Party Gennadiy Seleznev that "Mountainous Karabakh is inseparable part of Azerbaijan".

Mr. Badalyan said this was a suspicious information about Seleznev's interview to a Turkish [Azeri] Gunay daily. He added that the interview was published when Seleznev has not been elected as the Chairman of State Duma, and was not able to influence the policy of the Communist Party of Russia [CPR]. He is not the main leader of the party, and does not have the power to represent the views of the Communist Party of Russia. According to Badalyan, First Deputy Chairman of CPR Valentin Kuptsov confirmed this view by the telephone yesterday.

Respublica Armenia adds in turn, that Gunay daily is edited by A.Abbasov in Baku, not in Turkey, and that Seleznev's position - Secretary of the Central Committee of CPR, speaks for itself about whether he has the power to speak on behalf of the party.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan: Aliyev Suppression of Opposition Scored

MM1202163696 Moscow EKSPRESS-KHRONIKA in Russian 9 Feb 96 p 4

[Report by Arif Yunusov: "Azerbaijan After the Elections" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last year 1995, particularly the latter half with the 12 November parliamentary elections and referendum on the Constitution, substantially modified the disposition of political forces in Azerbaijan and in many respects the sociopolitical future.

Taking into consideration Western countries' and Russia's interest in Azerbaijan's oil, Geydar Aliyev dealt particularly unceremoniously with the opposition. On what were naturally his secret instructions the Ministry of Justice in July and August organized very real selection of parties on the pretext of reregistration. The radical opposition was completely routed and its leader, Iskender Gamidov, the former internal affairs minister and head of Azerbaijan's "Gray Wolves," was sent to jail for 14 years. At that time the liberal opposition was represented by two elections blocs — "Civic Unity" and the "Democratic Congress." But five of the first bloc's six parties were not registered and the bloc effectively collapsed. The authorities tried to play off the members of the "Democratic Congress" against one another, primarily this bloc's two leading parties: Having registered "Musavat" without any particular problems in August, they only gave the "go-ahead" for the registration of the Azerbaijan People's Front [APF] a month later, and even then only under pressure from the West. As a result some APF members, including some of its leaders, went over to "Musavat." But in October the APF was allowed to take part in the elections without any problems while barriers were put in the way of "Musavat."

Forces oriented to Russia and Iran — the Communist Party and the Islamic Party — were barred from taking part in the elections.

As a result the opposition, which had no particular chance of success, was defeated even before the elections took place. Admittedly, the opposition had some hope left for the elections on the first-past-the-post system. But here too the authorities ignored international observers and got "their" people into parliament with the help of massive falsification and police repression.

The result was that whereas in 1990 under Soviet rule 25 members of the opposition got into the National Assembly, now three representatives of the APF and the same number of candidates from the Party of National Independence, which is close to the authorities but considers itself an opposition party, have become deputies. The opposition's voice cannot be heard in parliament now. The Constitution has given the president tremendous powers. And that means that whereas before 12 November 1995 Geydar Aliyev still looked to the West and was sometimes forced to take account of the opposition, now the dabbling with democracy has come to an end.

It is easy to see that 1996 will be a year of repression and Azerbaijan's rapid return not to the "glorious seventies" but to 1937. This policy began last year when, along with detainees, members of their families or relatives also ended up in the torture chambers.

Repressions are also inevitable because the republic's economy is in a catastrophic state and the authorities are already overtly admitting that the overwhelming majority of industrial enterprises are bankrupt. The impoverishment of the population has acquired massive proportions. No major reforms are foreseen. The hopes pinned on the oil "contract of the century" proved illusory and vanished long since. The talks regarding the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict have effectively become deadlocked — a million-strong army of refugees is once again living in tents and boarding houses with no prospects. Serious problems have arisen with gas and lighting and, according to official figures, 36 rayons are without electricity.

Under these conditions a social explosion is quite feasible and the authorities will need more "conspiracies and coups" in order to use them as a pretext for repressions and from time to time divert the population's attention with "show" trials.

At the same time recent events have brought substantial changes to the political picture. Today as a result of this selection both the authorities and a considerable proportion of the official opposition in the shape of the "Democratic Congress" are made up of people from Armenia and Nakhichevan. Political forces from other parts of Azerbaijan, primarily the capital where half the republic's population lives today, have been "left out." Under these conditions consultations and talks began late last year — with particular intensity after the elections — and two parties — the Independent Democratic Party and "Vakhdat" — decided to join forces. The leaders of these parties are currently conducting intensive negotiations on unification with the Party of Justice and certain other parties.

At the same time for the first time since January 1990 there have been major changes in Azerbaijan's attitude to Russia. After the "bloody January" of 1990 there was not a single sociopolitical structure in the republic that wanted to maintain ties with kindred structures in Russia. It was only recently that the newly revived Communist Party of Azerbaijan began to restore its ties, but the Communists are not particularly popular in the republic. The other political forces cleave to their Western orientation. Both the authorities and the democratic opposition were virtually united in the view that with the support of the West, primarily the United States and Turkey, and buoyed up by the oil contract, it would be possible to defend Azerbaijan's independence against Russian encroachments, settle the conflict with Armenia, and improve the economic situation.

However, for many of Azerbaijan's democratic forces it is now clear that this one-sided policy has not brought the anticipated results and was largely mistaken. There is the realization that it is necessary not to turn away from Russia but, on the contrary, restore and broaden ties with Russia's democratic structures and jointly find ways of understanding and resolving the complex problems that have built up over a long period. It is quite likely that the trend that first emerged after January 1990 for relations with Russia to improve (particularly typical of parties based around people from Armenia and Nakhichevan) will gain momentum this year and become the dominant factor in Azerbaijan by the end of the year following the Russian presidential elections.

Georgia

Georgia: Shevardnadze Wants IMF Conditions Met

LD1202233396 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1934 GMT 12 Feb 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Eduard Shevardnadze went on the national radio Monday to say that legislation on land and commercial banks should be passed as soon as possible so as to meet the International Monetary Fund's [IMF] conditions for making credits available to Georgia in the framework of a three-year program of aid in restructuring the country's economy.

Shevardnadze said that passions over the land bill are running high while quite a few people do not know what the bill is all about. He added that he has not made public his views of the bill.

The IMF wants the budget approved in the form it was sent to parliament by the president, Shevardnadze said. "This condition was met," he said, on February 9 when parliament passed a history making document "which will make an important part of the president's crisis overcoming program realizable," Shevardnadze continued. He recalled that the budget was drafted in close contact with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Shevardnadze added that an IMF delegation had arrived in Tbilisi Sunday who will tell the fund's board whether $200 million credits should be made available to Georgia, of which one third next spring.

Shevardnadze believes that market economy has taken root in Georgia. He said that taxes imposed on privatized businesses and joint stock societies accounted for 65 percent of the national budget revenue compared to just 23 percent a year ago.

A document on comprehensive settlement of the Abkhazian problem is being actively drafted, he said. Shevardnadze expressed the hope that the U.N., E.C, and countries such as Russia, the U.S., Britain and France will step up their aid in having this issue resolved.

Shevardnadze called on the South Ossetian leaders to enter a constructive dialog on resolving the Georgian-Ossetian conflict. "One should not think that the Russian peacekeeping battalion will stay in Tskhinvali forever," he argued. A reconciliation between Georgians and Ossetians can be achieved shortly on the basis of mutual understanding and compromises.

Outrageous facts of corruption in the Georgian government in particular, among some deputy prime ministers have emerged, Shevardnadze said. He told the nation that the first meeting of the National Security Council told the prosecutor general, the comptroller's chamber, and the interior ministry to audit the government's activity, notably financial, over the last six years. "Let us wait the report of the audit when names will be named," he said.

An official in the president's press service told Interfax that the National Security Council meeting held Saturday night discussed guidelines on the council.

Shevardnadze said that the guidelines will be worked out within a year. He emphasized that the council will not be a counterweight to the government or duplicate it.

"This institution will coordinate all issues in the national security," he said. It will supervise the activities of ministries, departments, corporations, agencies and other state structures and of autonomous and territorial bodies in national security.

Under the legislation passed by the Georgian parliament, appointments to this body will be made by the president but the ministers of defense, interior, security and foreign affairs will be its permanent members.

Under the legislation, the council will report to the president and will be a consultative and an organizational body.

Georgia: Russian Border Service Chief Arrives

LD1302120796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1059 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, Feb 13 (Interfax) — Chief of the Russian Border Service Andrey Nikolayev arrived for a working visit Tuesday [13 February] morning in Tbilisi, Georgia, where he is to meet his Georgian counterpart Valeriy Chkheidze and President Eduard Shevardnadze.

The two sides are expected to discuss joint border controls and concerted measures to isolate the Abkhazian separatist leadership on the basis of the CIS summit resolutions, the staff of the Georgian border force announced. The protection of the Georgian-Chechen border will be a separate subject.

Earlier, the Russian official visited Armenia.

Georgia: Georgia Continues To Claim Share in Black Sea Fleet

LD1302121596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1100 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, Feb 13 (Interfax) — Georgia continues to claim its share in the former Soviet Black Sea Fleet which has been divided between Russia and Ukraine, Georgian Foreign Minister Irakli Menagarishvili told the press Tuesday, but did not specify what he meant by its share.

A fleet requires enormous spending, admitted Georgian Navy Commander Aleksandr Javakhishvili in an earlier interview with Interfax. The maintenance of even one modern patrol ship costs approximately the same as one motorized infantry brigade, and at the moment Georgia cannot afford such spending.

Georgia: CIS Decision on Settlement of Abkhaz Conflict

AU1302070296 Tbilisi DRONI in Georgian 23-26 Jan 96 p 3

["Decision of the Council of CIS Heads of State on Measures To Settle the Abkhazian Conflict" issued in Moscow on 19 January]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been decided:

1. To condemn the destructive position of the Abkhazian side, which is hindering the achievement of mutually acceptable treaties, a political settlement of the conflict, and the safe and dignified return of refugees and displaced persons to their places of residence.

2. The Council of CIS Heads of State is expecting from the sides that real results will be achieved in the near future at negotiations held through the mediation of the Russian Federation, particularly regarding political questions and the problem of refugees and displaced persons.

3. The CIS states will put a halt to the sale or supply of weapons by their citizens or from their territories to the conflict zone and the use of ships sailing under their flags or aircraft for the transport of weapons, all types of corresponding equipment and spare parts, military hardware, and military transport and gear.

4. The CIS countries forbid:

a) Legal and physical persons in their countries from giving any types of technical consultations and assistance in the training of cadres, and other things mentioned in Paragraph 3 to the Abkhazian side;

b) Persons permanently resident on territory controlled by the Abkhazian side from being mobilized into the CIS military forces.

5. The CIS countries will take measures:

a) To prevent their citizens from being sent to the conflict zone and from participating in any armed formations active there;

b) To bring back those CIS citizens currently serving in Abkhazian armed formations;

c) To summon their own officials, representatives, or citizens who are on territory under the control of the Abkhazian authorities to assist them in military matters.

6. Recognizing that Abkhazia is an indivisible part of Georgia, the CIS countries, without the [consent of the] Georgian Government,

a) Will not conduct commercial and economic, financial, transport, and other operations with the Abkhazian side;

b) Will not have official contacts with representatives of structures existing on Abkhazian territory and officials and also members of armed formations there.

7. The CIS countries will not allow representatives of the Abkhazian authorities and also official representatives of these authorities to function on their territories.

8. Guided by the desire for a full-scale settlement of the Abkhazian conflict, first and foremost, to ensure the immediate, unconditional, and dignified return of refugees and displaced persons to their places of residence, the CIS countries call upon the UN to support the measures adopted by the CIS countries to exert influence upon the Abkhazian authorities and to recommend that all members of the organization adhere to them.

The decision comes into force on the day it is signed.

Moscow, 19 January 1996.

Georgia: Abkhaz Separatists Said To Be Kidnapping Residents

LD1202153996 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1400 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Zugdidi [town in Georgia near the Abkhaz border], 12 Feb — An IPRINDA correspondent has reported that the situation in Abkhazia has recently deteriorated considerably as Abkhaz separatists are trying to wreck the peace process. Frequent operations against the Georgian population are assuming the nature of ethnic cleansing. Members of the Russian peacekeeping force are also actively involved in the operations.

Up to 15 people have been taken hostage in the village of Sida in Gali District, 47 in the villages of Zemo Barghebi and Kvemo Barghebi, and 16 in the village of Tageni. All of them were taken from the security zone to an unknown destination. Georgians are fleeing from Gali District and crossing into Zugdidi. Their numbers have reached from 4,000 to 5,000. About 3,000 refugees held a rally outside the mayor's office in Zugdidi protesting the latest events and demanding specific action from the Georgian Government.

Georgia: Chechen Opposition Soldiers Reported Training in Abkhazia

LD1202213196 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Georgian 1510 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi — According to the reports by the press service of the [Tbilisi-based, pro-Georgian] Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, separatists are continuing to train Chechen fighters for their future deployment in Russia. The saboteurs' training base is situated in the town of Novyy Afon. Bandit formations keep their arms in one of the caves here. According to verified information, a nine-man terrorist group, led by a militant under the nickname of "Pizhon" [in Russian — fop], blocked off the Russian-Georgian border in the beginning of February. Four of them were ordered to meet Dzhokhar Dudayev and the rest of the members settled in the village of Dagomys.

It has also become known that Abkhaz terrorists often visit Chechnya.

Lithuania

Lithuania: 'Jaegers' To Train With U.S. 'Special' Troops

WS1302090596 Tallinn BNS in English 1900 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kaunas, Feb 12, BNS — A group of U.S. Army special troops came Monday to a special jaeger battalion in Kaunas to assist Lithuanians in making ready for a joint exercise "Winter Forest."

Chief of staff of the jaeger battalion, Aleksandras Valincius, told BNS that the three-day special training, to be opened on Feb. 19, would be held within the U.S. military contact programme Military to Military.

The lion's share of expenses will be covered by the United States Defense Department.

The chief of staff refused to give any details of what Lithuanians would be taught by the specially trained U.S. troops and to identify the unit which they had come from.

He did not say what were the operations Lithuanian army jaegers were trained for either, naming the most general function of the special forces, which is to defend the homeland.

BNS has information that the status of a special jaeger battalion was granted to the Kaunas-based Vytautas the Great motorized infantry battalion last April.

Since then, the jaegers have been subordinate directly to the Lithuanian Army Commander-in-Chief.

The elite troops are trained to carry out operations which require special training, including reconnoitering the enemy in the rear.

Lithuania: Radioactive Material Seized From 'Underground' Dealers

WS1302090496 Tallinn BNS in English 1600 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Feb 12, BNS — Heads of the Ignalina nuclear power station (INPS) in Lithuania deny any link between the station and 100 kilograms of radioactive material seized from underground dealers.

INPS director Viktor Shevaldin said the material, kept in the station's storages since Sunday, was not nuclear fuel or any other equipment used by the station. Components made of so far unidentified metal and kept in wooden boxes are not of a kind used in Ignalina or any other power stations of similar type, he told BNS. The boxes with radioactive material radiate 120 to 140 micro-roentgens per hour, which is ten times as large as the natural background but poses no threat to life and environment.

One of the first versions said the material seized from the dealers could be a component of the fuel assembly which had been long missing from the Ignalina station.

The INPS management is very keen to find the assembly which was lost several years ago in unclear circumstances, however the material found has nothing to do with it, Shevaldin said.

The nuclear material was seized from underground dealers who were detained Saturday in a thoroughly preplanned secret operation.

Sources in the National Security Department and Prosecutor General's Office said that the operation involved the police, prosecuting and security officers who had disguised themselves as nuclear smugglers and made a 50 thousand U.S. dollar "deal" with the traffickers.

The group of seven armed dealers, a Georgian national among them, tried to resist during the arrest operation. Fortunately, there were no casualties. All the suspects, many of whom appeared to be Lithuanian residents, were arrested.

The investigative bodies now try to establish the origin of the radioactive material. According to a version, it stems from a CIS country.

Lithuania has signed the non-proliferation treaty and, consequently, an agreement with IAEA on guarantee application.

Under the agreement, a IAEA mission visits Lithuanian once a quarter to check the way nuclear materials are stored.

The last IAEA mission visited this country in late December and made sure that Lithuania kept to its requirements in storing nuclear fuels.

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